

Question:

1. With Water for the Future, where are we up to in allocations of funding for the infrastructure component versus allocation for the environmental purchases?
2. Could you update us as to where we are up to now on the allocation of resources against the infrastructure component?

Answer:

As at the end of 28th February 2010 expenditure under Water for the Future on water infrastructure for irrigation and other primary industry purposes totalled \$465 million.

As at the end of 28th February 2010, total expenditure on all water purchases settled under the \$3.1 billion 'Restoring the Balance in the Basin' program was \$1,079 million

Extract Transcript for Senate Inquiry

[E5Z2Siewert, Sen Rachel](#)**Senator SIEWERT**—With Water for the Future, where are we up to in allocations of funding for the infrastructure component versus allocation for the environmental purchases? The infrastructure process has been behind the environmental purchase and in past estimates we have been through reasons for that in terms of development of the planning process et cetera. Could you update us as to where we are up to now on the allocation of resources against the infrastructure component?

[unknown2unknown1](#)**Mr James**—I am sorry; I do not have those numbers with me. Basically the situation is as you have described. The purchasing program has gone ahead in leaps and bounds. The infrastructure program, by and large, is a slower thing to start. For the reasons you are aware of, it takes a long time to get a decent infrastructure projects planned, agreed to and up and running. I am sorry, but I just do not have those numbers with me.

[E5Z2Siewert, Sen Rachel](#)**Senator SIEWERT**—Is it possible to you to take it on notice?

[unknown2unknown1](#)**Mr James**—Sure.

[E5Z2Siewert, Sen Rachel](#)**Senator SIEWERT**—I am anticipating there would have been some change between when we were last talking about it at estimates and now.

[unknown2unknown1](#)**Mr James**—I am happy to take it on notice.

[E5Z2Siewert, Sen Rachel](#)**Senator SIEWERT**—As you will be aware, there is a great deal of criticism about the fact that the infrastructure expenditure has not rolled out. I do understand that there needs to be a lot of planning and that it should not be done on an ad hoc basis, but I am interested to see how far the planning has progressed. If you are spending more money then obviously the planning has progressed.

[unknown2unknown1](#)**Mr James**—Sure. I am happy to take it on notice