

**Environment and Communications References**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio**

**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ23-000308  
**Hearing Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division  
**Topic:** Australian Antarctic Science Council and their funding model report  
**Hansard Page:** 3  
**Question Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Whish-Wilson asked:**

CHAIR: Did you give opinion or advice to the Australian Antarctic Science Council when they consulted with you about this report?

Ms Campbell: In terms of the—

CHAIR: The current model.

Ms Campbell: Unless Professor Webster can talk specifically to that issue—I think we support integrated science, but how government carves up the money is a matter for government.

CHAIR: Could I ask the same question in relation to the structural alignment option 2 or the further feedback option 3. Did you provide any advice as to which was the AAD's preferred model?

Prof. Webster: That would be a question for Mr Sullivan, who would've been interviewed directly by the Antarctic Science Council.

CHAIR: I might put that to him in writing then.

Ms Campbell: We can take that on notice.

CHAIR: Yes, please.

**Answer:**

Refer page 21 of the Australian Antarctic Science Council's April 2023 report on its review of the Australian Antarctic Science Funding Model provided in response to IQ23-000279.

In January 2023, Daryl Quinlivan AO completed a Functional Alignment Review of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The review noted that although some Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) staff considered the AAD should be a separate agency, there was general agreement that the AAD should be more closely integrated with the department. These findings were accepted by the department and the department's corporate services have lent in heavily to support AAD.

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**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ23-000310  
**Hearing Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division  
**Topic:** Consultant spending - 2020-21  
**Hansard Page:** 4  
**Question Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Bilyk asked:**

Senator BILYK: One of the questions I asked was how much money was spent on consultants for the following financial years, and I went back to 2019-2020. In 2020-2021, the answer you've given me is \$20,622,637. Is that a typo or is that correct?

Ms Campbell: I asked that question as well; my understanding is that it's correct.

Senator BILYK: Twenty million dollars on consultants? I understand you weren't in the position then, Ms Campbell, but can I get a breakdown of who the consultants were, the individual costs attributed to them and for what reasons they were needed?

Ms Campbell: Yes, we can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Australian Antarctic Division spent \$20,622,637 on consultancies in 2020-21. The majority of this spend related to approved critical project work of which additional funding was received. A detailed breakdown of the spend is provided at **Attachment A**.

## Attachment A

Consultant	Details of Consultancy Services Provided	\$
<b>RSV Nuyina Project</b>		
CCA Marine Consultants Pty Ltd	Specialised marine engineer subject matter expertise	545,510
Jeremy David Grey	Project Management Facilitator to assist with the implementation of the Transition Management Plan for the integration of the new icebreaker capability	111,200
		<b>656,710</b>
<b>Year Round Aviation Access - Davis Aerodrome Project</b>		
WSP Australia Pty Ltd	Provision of engineering and operations services associated with Davis Research station	1,177,086
AECOM Australia Pty Ltd	Provision of: - services to progress preparation of environmental documentation and approvals (EPBC Act & Antarctic Treaty Act), - technical design services, - services to develop a Reference Logistics Strategy to support project delivery, and - geotechnical investigation services	14,077,691
WTP Australia	Provision of infrastructure cost model subject matter expertise and quantity surveying services	590,493
EMM Consulting Pty Ltd	Provision of environmental assessment documentation subject matter expertise	407,922
Bureau of Meteorology	Provision of technical support on matters relating to weather services and aviation hazard assessment	1,166,648
Black Square Engineering	Provision of specialised geotechnical and safety advice	20,795
KPMG	The provision of subject matter expertise to support the Year Round Aviation Access Project at Davis Station.	1,693,282
Philip Chun BC NSW Pty Ltd	Provision of independent building surveyor services	61,830
Megavar Pty Ltd	Provision for specialist technical advice	4,249
Southern Ocean Subsea Pty Ltd	Sediment sampling/monitoring	9,874
CSIRO	Phytoplankton taxonomic work - Vestfold Hills	14,142
Alchimie Pty Ltd	Provision of transaction advisor services	183,273
Forcefield Services Pty Ltd	Security risk assessment	48,920
		<b>19,456,205</b>
<b>Macquarie Island Modernisation Project</b>		
AECOM Australia Pty Ltd	Provision for technical advisory services	301,666
Injury Prevention Services	Asbestos consulting services	1,030
WTP Australia	Provision for quantity surveyor services	78,000
Holdfast Consulting	Provision of building surveying services	15,840
		<b>396,536</b>
<b>Other</b>		
University of Tasmania	Specialised medical advice - risk of COVID-19 in returning expeditioners	10,000
Donald Cant Watts Corke	Provision of cost planning & quantity surveying - Aviation facilities	93,736
Arcadis Australia Pacific	Structural engineering design services	9,450
		<b>113,186</b>
<b>TOTAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR 2020-21</b>		<b>20,622,637</b>

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**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ23-000311  
**Hearing Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division  
**Topic:** Consultants  
**Hansard Page:** 5  
**Question Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Duniam asked:**

Senator DUNIAM: Just on that, I'd be interested to know what sorts of consultants you use ordinarily, because that's quite a spike, isn't it?

Senator BILYK: It's huge.

Senator DUNIAM: The previous year being \$3 million and then 2020-21 was \$20 million.

Senator BILYK: And then it went back to \$7 million.

Senator DUNIAM: Is it operational, or is it internal administrative? How would you classify what you'd typically use?

Ms Campbell: Having been here for only six months, I'll have to take that on notice.

Senator DUNIAM: Does Professor Webster have some insight?

Prof. Webster: I don't have the detailed breakdown. I suspect that's in the context of the Antarctic Infrastructure Renewal Program, which looked at renewal of all the stations, which is rather a large body of work. I suspect that, but it's not confirmed.

Senator DUNIAM: As part of that, could I have an understanding on notice of the tasks these people were assigned to?

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided in IQ23-000310

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**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ23-000312  
**Hearing Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division  
**Topic:** \$804.4 million funding - delay in rollout  
**Hansard Page:** 10  
**Question Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Duniam asked:**

Senator DUNIAM: I wanted to ask whether there have been any delays with the rollout of items that were to be funded under the \$804.4 million that was allocated to the AAD. You probably can't answer straight away, but, in general terms, is everything on time and tickety-boo, or are there delays?

Ms Campbell: There are delays across a range of things. For example, it delayed things last year when Nuyina was held up and we had to do some other things—and we've heard that in other evidence. We can certainly take that question on notice for you.

**Answer:**

Please refer to answer provided in question on notice IQ23-000323.

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**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ23-000313  
**Hearing Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division  
**Topic:** Briefing to ministers  
**Hansard Page:** 5  
**Question Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Duniam asked:**

Senator DUNIAM: ... Has a briefing been provided to or sought by any of the ministers Plibersek, Husic or Wong since the hearing in Hobart, in relation to the subject matter of the hearing?

Ms Campbell: The department hasn't been asked for any briefings for ministers Wong or Husic. I can't think of anything from Minister Plibersek, but I'd have to have another review—unless Professor Webster knows?

Prof. Webster: I'm not aware of anything.

Senator DUNIAM: That's fine on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's executive meet weekly with the Minister to update on matters across the portfolio, including the Australian Antarctic Division, and matters relating to this inquiry.

In line with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, the Secretary is responsible for the Department's operating and staffing budget, including managing within available appropriations provided by the Parliament.

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**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ23-000317  
**Hearing Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division  
**Topic:** AAD staffing  
**Hansard Page:** 7  
**Question Date:** 16 November 2023  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Whish-Wilson asked:**

CHAIR: Thank you, Senator Bilyk. We've got some information back on hiring, and we've ascertained today that there has been no additional hiring since we had our last inquiry. How many people have left the Science Branch since our last hearing?

Ms Campbell: Professor Webster, do you have those numbers handy? Are you aware of any?

Unidentified speaker: I am.

CHAIR: I've heard five, but I'd be interested to know.

Prof. Webster: I would have to take that on notice. I actually don't have the numbers to mind. I can't think of five.

CHAIR: You can't? Can you think of anyone who has left, and could you tell us why they left?

Prof. Webster: Since the inquiry?

CHAIR: Yes, since the inquiry.

Ms Campbell: We'll take that on notice so that we get you a proper answer.

CHAIR: Has anyone left? Are you aware of anyone leaving the Science Branch? Any scientists leaving? Surely you must be aware if scientists are leaving because you're the senior person in the Science Branch, Professor Webster.

Prof. Webster: I'm not aware of any scientists that have left in the past month, since we held the inquiry.

CHAIR: What about the past two months?

Ms Campbell: The time frames are hard to keep track of. I can certainly think of a couple of scientists that have left in the last four months, but we'll certainly—

CHAIR: But none since our last hearing?

Prof. Webster: Not that I'm aware of.

Senator BILYK: What about other staff, not just scientists?

Ms Campbell: Again, we'll take that on notice.

Senator BILYK: I'm happy for you to take it on notice.

**Answer:**

Between September 2023 and October 2023, two employees in total have left the Science Branch.

Classification	Sep-23	Oct-23	Grand Total
Research Scientist 1	1		1
Principal Research Scientist 1		1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>