

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 163
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. What has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
5. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
6. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
7. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
9. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

Given this question was received at the end of February, responses to questions on 'actual' spend, has been provided up until 29 February 2016. Planned expenditure is from the 29 February 2016 up until the end of the 2015-16 financial year.

1. The **Department of the Environment's** official hospitality spend from 15 September 2015 to 29 February 2016 was \$17,383.50 (GST Inclusive).

The **Director of National Parks** spent \$174.59 (GST inclusive) on hospitality.

The **Bureau of Meteorology** spent \$8,558.87 (GST inclusive) on hospitality.

The **Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust)** spent \$12,114.60 (GST inclusive) on hospitality.

The remaining portfolio agencies have no hospitality events, that have occurred within the specified period.

- The **Department of the Environment** spent \$3,911.43 (GST inclusive) on hospitality for hospitality events hosted by the Minister for the period 15 September 2015 to 29 February 2015. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (GST incl.)
3/12/2015	Paris Climate Change Conference venue, Le Bourget, Paris	A reception hosted by Minister Hunt for Australia's partners and other stakeholders involved in international carbon forest-monitoring projects.	\$3,911.43
		Total	\$3,911.43

The Portfolio agencies do not meet the costs of hospitality for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office.

- The **Department of the Environment's** entertainment expenses are incorporated in official hospitality. Refer to Question 1 response.

Portfolio agencies have no recorded entertainment expenses for the specified period.

- The **Department of Environment's** entertainment expenses are incorporated in official hospitality. Refer to Question 2 response.
- The **Department of the Environment** is estimating to spend approximately \$10,500.00 for official hospitality (GST Inclusive) up until the end of the 2015-16 financial year. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (GST incl.)
23/05/16 to 1/06/16	Santiago, Chile	XXXIX Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting - Official Reception.	\$2,500.00
23/5/16 to 1/6/16	Santiago, Chile	XIX Committee on Environmental Protection Meeting - Official Reception.	\$8,000.00
		Total	\$10,500.00

Portfolio agencies currently have no planned official hospitality events before the end of the 2015-16 financial year.

- There is currently no plans for official hospitality events to be paid for by the **Department of the Environment** for the offices of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office between now and the end of the financial year.

7. The **Department of the Environment's** planned entertainment expenses are incorporated in official hospitality. Refer to Question 5 response.
8. The **Department of the Environment's** planned entertainment expenses are incorporated in official hospitality. Refer to Question 6 response.

The Portfolio agencies do not meet the costs of entertainment for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office.

9. The Department of the Environment and agencies tightly manage expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment. Expenditure is only incurred as necessary, to facilitate the achievement of the Commonwealth's interests and objectives.