

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

Question No: 180
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - REVIEWS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 11 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

For any review commenced or ordered since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?

- a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
- b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
- c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
- d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
- e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
- f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
- g) If yes, for each, who selected them
- h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
- i) If yes, please detail what involvement it was
- j) If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
- k) If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
- l) If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
- m) If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

Answer:

Department of the Environment

The Department of the Environment commenced one review in the period 1 February to 30 April 2014.

Review of the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009-2014

- a) UniQuest Pty Ltd, Professor Clive McAlpine, Associate Professor Ann Peterson and Dr Harriet Preece.
- b) Ms Wilma James, Senior Director, Expertise Commercialisation (UniQuest Pty Ltd).
- c) Cost of \$44,000 (incl. GST) for the team of three collectively (cost breakdown not available).
- d) The officers have been engaged for their expertise in the following areas:
 - Professor Clive McAlpine has expertise in koala conservation and management.
 - Associate Professor Ann Peterson has expertise in evaluation of government policies and programs.

- Dr Harriet Preece has expertise in koala ecology and management.

All three will work together to produce a report that evaluates the performance of the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009-2014.

- e) No.
- f) None.
- g) Selection was via a procurement process. A Request for Quote was sent to three external environmental consultants that had expertise in koala conservation and management and/or evaluation of government programs. The quote provided by UniQuest was assessed to be the best value for money.
- h) No.
- i) Not applicable.
- j) Not applicable.
- k) Not applicable.
- l) Not applicable.
- m) Not applicable.

Portfolio Agencies

The following Portfolio Agencies provided a 'nil' response for all questions listed above:

Bureau of Meteorology; Clean Energy Regulator; Climate Change Authority; Director of National Parks; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; Murray-Darling Basin Authority; National Water Commission and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.