

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

**Question No:** 71  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Supervising Scientist Division  
**Topic:** COST OF VIDEO CONFERENCE  
**Hansard Page:** 10  
**Question Date:** 27 May 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Williams asked:**

CHAIR: Could you take on notice what it costs to have this videoconference compared to what it would have cost you for airfares, accommodation and loss of time in your job? And, of course, don't forget your carbon footprint as well, please. I think this has worked very well and has clearly has saved a lot of time, trouble and cost. I would be interested, as Chair of the committee, to see the savings. Thank you, Mr McAllister and Mr Tayler, for your time.

**Answer:**

1. Based on Mr McAllister's previous trips to Canberra from Darwin, the following indicative costs can be estimated for him to appear in person at Senate Estimates:

Flights, (including fees) plus cabs	\$3241.17
2 nights/3 days accommodation and TA	\$988.92
3 days salary (SES Band 2)	\$2563.56
Total	<b><u>\$6793.65</u></b>

Carbon footprint estimation for flights and taxis **1.9 t CO<sub>2</sub>e.**

2. Approximate cost for a 30 minute video link-up **\$30.00**

Note that the Department of the Environment is trialling a new system which will shortly bring the cost of video links between Darwin and Canberra, to zero.

3. Mr McAllister would normally undertake additional official work when he visits Canberra, so it is not accurate to attribute the costs of his attendance entirely to appearing before the Senate Estimates Committee.