

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

**Question No:** 282  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)  
**Topic:** PORTFOLIO WIDE - HOSPITALITY AND ENTERTAINMENT  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, what has been the Department/Agency's hospitality spend including any catering and drinks costs.

- a. 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.
- b. What has been the Department/Agency's entertainment spend? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

**Answer:**

- a. The Department spent \$853.19 on hospitality (GST inclusive) for the offices of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for the period 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost</b>
15 September 2014	Grand Hotel Bernardin, Slovenia	Minister Hunt visited Slovenia from 11 to 18 September 2014 and hosted a lunch with the International Whaling Commission Commissioners (IWC), the IWC Chair and Executive Secretary of the IWC.	\$853.19

b. The Departmental entertainment expenses are incorporated in official hospitality.

The **Department of the Environment (the Department)** spent \$3,173.24 (GST inclusive) on hospitality for 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost</b>
14 May 2014	Ottoman, Canberra	Networking lunch held immediately prior to the first Expert Panel Meeting for the Statutory Review of the Water Act	\$508.00
11 June 2014	Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley	Official dinner for 23 attendees including the Independent Expert Scientific Committee for Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining, the Mayors and General Managers of local government areas in the Hunter Valley, and the General Manager Hunter Local Services	\$1,300.00
29 July 2014	Chairman and Yip, Canberra	Dinner for New Zealand officials visiting Australia to review elements of Australia's and New Zealand's national greenhouse gas inventories	\$670.50
1 September 2014	Le Violon d'Ingres, Paris	Lunch with World Heritage Centre technical staff	\$248.28
18 September 2014	Restaurant de L'unesco, Paris	Lunch with Permanent Representation to UNESCO (World Heritage Committee members only)	\$446.46

The **Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)** spent \$7,217.75 (GST inclusive) on hospitality and entertainment for 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost</b>
16 June 2014	Melbourne	Official welcome function for Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) Regional Workshop.	\$1,500.00
19 June 2014	Melbourne	Official Hospitality (dinner) relating to Jurisdictional Reference Group for Water Information (JRGWI).	\$1,345.00
21 June 2014	Melbourne	Tickets and transportation to the Werribee Open Range Zoo for delegates from the Pacific Island National Meteorological Services – COSPPac Regional Workshop.	\$660.00
22 June 2014	Melbourne	Circus Oz tickets for delegates from the Pacific Island National Meteorological Services – COSPPac Regional Workshop.	\$285.65

22 June 2014	Melbourne	Official Hospitality (dinner) relating to Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) Regional Workshop.	\$1,181.10
12 September 2014	Tuvalu, Polynesian Island	Official Hospitality (dinner) relating to Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) – Tuvalu Science, Communication and Stakeholder Workshop.	\$2,246.00

The **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)** spent \$980.50 (GST inclusive) on hospitality and entertainment for the period 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
2 June 2014	Townsville	Network lunch with Polycom team	\$130.50
24 June 2014	Townsville	Function hosted for the Miami University	\$850.00

The **National Water Commission (NWC)** spent \$3,130.00 (GST inclusive) on hospitality and entertainment for 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
25 June 2014	Canberra	Tenth anniversary of the National Water Initiative event with stakeholders	\$2,195.00
25 September 2014	Canberra	Commissioners' dinner	\$935.00

The **Director of National Parks (DNP)** spent \$888.10 (GST inclusive) on hospitality and entertainment for the period 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
26 September 2014	Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney NSW	World Parks Congress Heads of Parks Lunch (Deposit for lunch on 16 November) – Building international and national bilateral relationships	\$888.10

The **Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)** spent \$7,846.29 (GST inclusive) on hospitality and entertainment for the period 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
5 May 2014	Canberra	Murray-Darling Basin Authority working dinner.	\$587.50
6 May 2014	Canberra	Basin Community Committee and Murray-Darling Basin Authority working dinner.	\$2,601.00
17 June 2014	Moree, NSW	Northern Basin Advisory Committee (NBAC) working dinner with Authority members and key stakeholders.	\$1,580.00
25 June 2014	Canberra	Monitoring Evaluation & Information Coordinator (MEIC) Debrief working dinner.	\$81.90
30 June 2014	Queensland	NBAC working dinner with key stakeholders.	\$1,606.00
1 July 2014	Canberra	Authority working dinner with Senator Birmingham.	\$572.46
23 July 2014	Canberra	Basin Officials Committee working dinner.	\$634.00
12 August 2014	Canberra	Advisory Committee on Social, Economic and Environmental Sciences meeting with Authority members and MDBA staff.	\$183.43

The **Clean Energy Regulator (CER), Climate Change Authority (CCA), Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust)** have not spent any funds on hospitality and entertainment for the period 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014.

- c. There has been no expenditure by the Department on entertainment for the offices of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for the period 01 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.
- d. The **Department** has the following planned hospitality for the period from 1 October 2014. Details of date, location, purpose, and estimated cost are provided.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
7 October 2014	Chairman and Yip, Canberra	Official dinner for 15 attendees - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	\$1,600.00
7 October 2014	Holiday Inn, Port Moresby	Informal dinner with officers of the Kokoda Track Authority and the Tourism Promotion Authority	\$240.00

8 October 2014	RH Hypermart-Dynasty, Port Moresby	Informal dinner for 19 attendees including members of the Kokoda Track Authority and associated Board members	\$1,000.00
19 October 2014	Searson Buck Boardroom, Hobart	Lunch for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resource	\$300.00
20 October 2014	Ciaccio Restaurant, Hobart	Official dinner for 10 attendees including officials from the delegations of the United States, United Kingdom and New Zealand to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resource	\$1,100.00
20 October 2014	Lenna & Salamanca Terraces, Hobart	Official dinner with the French delegation for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resource (12-14 attendees)	\$1,800.00
21 October 2014	Searson Buck Boardroom, Hobart	Lunch for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resource core-group meeting	\$300.00
21 October 2014	Institution of Marine and Antarctic Studies, Hobart	Cocktail function for 150 delegates to the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resource	\$9,900.00
11 November 2014	Dockside Pavilion Darling Harbour, Sydney	Official dinner for 350 attendees to the Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit	\$47,600.00
17 November 2014	Olympic Park, Sydney	Cocktail function for 200 attendees at the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Park Congress	\$8,000.00
18 November 2014	Nathoura, New South Wales	Dinner for stakeholders of the Edward-Wakool Long Term Intervention Monitoring Program	\$300.00
19 November 2014	Smolt Restaurant, Hobart	Lunch with Chinese scientists on Antarctic science (15 attendees)	\$1,200.00
19 November 2014	The Beach Restaurant, Hobart	Lunch with the Polar Research Institute of China to commence planning joint China and Australia research workshop	\$495.00

The **Director of National Parks** has the following planned hospitality:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
16 November 2014	Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney NSW	World Parks Congress Heads of Parks Lunch – Building international and national bilateral relationships	\$4,000.00

**BoM, GBRMPA, NWC, CER, CCA, MDBA, and the Trust** have no planned hospitality spend for the period from 01 October 2014.

- e. There is no planned hospitality spend by the Department for the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary for the period from 1 October 2014 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.
- f. No entertainment spend is being planned by the **Department, BoM, GBRMPA, NWC, CER, CCA, DNP, MDBA, and the Trust.**
- g. There is no planned entertainment spend by the Department for the offices of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for the period from 1 October 2014 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.
- h. The Department 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.