

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

**Question No:** 321  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)  
**Topic:** PORTFOLIO WIDE - TRAVEL COSTS DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

- a. What date was the minister or their office was notified of the travel?
- b. What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
- c. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

***Department of the Environment:***

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 May to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive). All travel was undertaken to support the achievement of the Department's outcomes.

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	522,605
International Accommodation & Allowances	281,669
International Other Expenses	46,863
Domestic Airfares	1,323,727
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	980,106
Domestic Other Expenses	219,647
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,374,617</b>

- a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*.
- b. Refer to answer a.

c. For the rest of this calendar year, 1 October to 30 December 2014, approximately 46 international trips are scheduled. The Department is unable to provide an accurate estimate of the number of domestic trips currently planned without an unreasonable diversion of resources, and noting the variability of travel requirements. Travel is undertaken to facilitate the achievement of the Commonwealth Government's domestic and international interests and obligations.

**Director of National Parks:**

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 May to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive). All travel was undertaken to support the achievement of the Agency's outcomes.

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	8,414
International Accommodation & Allowances	1,293
International Other Expenses	1,202
Domestic Airfares	183,025
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	135,050
Domestic Other Expenses	28,658
<b>Total</b>	<b>357,641</b>

a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*

b. Refer to answer a.

c. For the rest of this calendar year, 1 October to 30 December 2014, no international trips are currently scheduled. The Director is unable to provide an estimate of the number of domestic trips currently planned without an unreasonable diversion of resources. Travel is undertaken to facilitate the achievement of the Commonwealth Government's domestic and international interests and obligations.

**Bureau of Meteorology:**

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 July to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive). All travel was undertaken to support the achievement of the Agency's outcomes.

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	588,541
International Accommodation & Allowances	1,254,807
International Other Expenses	870
Domestic Airfares	867,425

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	1,691,041
Domestic Other Expenses	357,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,760,414</b>

a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*. Two trips were approved by the Minister:

- Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Organization's Commission for Basic Systems (CBS-Ext. 14) in Asuncion, Paraguay; the Minister notified 13 August 2014 and approved the travel 14 August 2014.
- Management Committee of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services and the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Meteorological Organization Executive Council in Geneva, Switzerland; the Minister notified 19 May 2014 and approved the travel 21 May 2014.

b. Refer to answer a.

c. The Bureau is unable to provide an estimate of the number of trips currently planned without an unreasonable diversion of resources. Travel is undertaken to facilitate the achievement of the Commonwealth Government's domestic and international interests and obligations.

***Clean Energy Regulator:***

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 July to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive). All travel was undertaken to support the achievement of the Agency's outcomes.

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	-
International Accommodation & Allowances	-
International Other Expenses	-
Domestic Airfares	94,726
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	77,276
Domestic Other Expenses	50,363
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,365</b>

a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*

b. Refer to answer a.

c. The Regulator expects that further travel will be undertaken before 31 December 2014. Travel will be approved on an as needs basis consistent with business requirements.

**Climate Change Authority:**

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 July to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive). All travel was undertaken to support the achievement of the Authority's outcomes.

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	-
International Accommodation & Allowances	-
International Other Expenses	-
Domestic Airfares	7,332
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	2,249
Domestic Other Expenses	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,581</b>

- a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*.
- b. Refer to answer a.
- c. There are no specific travel plans. Any travel for the rest of the year will be undertaken to attend engagements relevant to the Authority's work, which requires in-person attendance.

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:**

Travel is undertaken to enable effective management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and ensure that the Australian Government and GBRMPA's domestic and international obligations are met. The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive).

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	2,169
International Accommodation & Allowances	11,072
International Other Expenses	4,966
Domestic Airfares	265,033
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	344,217
Domestic Other Expenses	2,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>629,642</b>

a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*. One trip was approved by the minister:

- International travel by the Chairman to Qatar in June 2014 was organised with Department of Environment staff and handled as one group booking; the Minister was notified 23 April 2014 and approved the travel 29 April 2014.

b. Refer to answer a.

c. Further travel will occur this calendar year to enable management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, in particular, compliance activities, liaison with 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees, attendance at the World Parks Congress and attendance at Senate Estimates, as determined by resources available and business requirements.

***Murray-Darling Basin Authority:***

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 July to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive). All travel was undertaken to support the achievement of the Authority's outcomes.

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	-
International Accommodation & Allowances	-
International Other Expenses	-
Domestic Airfares	285,375
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	159,089
Domestic Other Expenses	75,168
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,632</b>

a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*

b. Refer to answer a.

c. As at 30 September 2014, there were 82 trips planned for the rest of this calendar year. The travel is being undertaken to progress agency business including the implementation of the Basin Plan, delivery of joint programs and attendance at governance committees.

***National Water Commission:***

Travel was undertaken to promote water reform, for formal Commission meetings, general business activities, and to enable direct engagement with stakeholders and jurisdictions on the Commissions assessment and audit functions. The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 May to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive).

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	5,782

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Accommodation & Allowances	5,903
International Other Expenses	55
Domestic Airfares	40,327
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	10,815
Domestic Other Expenses	8,598
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,480</b>

a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*

b. Refer to answer a.

c. Further travel is expected to be undertaken for general business purposes and to attend business meetings concerning the Commission's Triennial Assessment of water reform; attendance at seminars and conferences where the Commission is providing speakers; and formal Commission meetings.

***Sydney Harbour Federation Trust:***

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 May to 30 September 2014 (GST inclusive). All travel was undertaken to support the achievement of the Agency's outcomes.

<b>Travel Expense</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
International Airfares	-
International Accommodation & Allowances	53
International Other Expenses	-
Domestic Airfares	1,118
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	2,154
Domestic Other Expenses	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,325</b>

a. The Minister is notified and asked to approve travel in accordance with *Resource Management Guide No. 405 Official International Travel - Approval and Use of the Best Fare of the Day*

b. Refer to answer a.

c. No travel is currently planned although other travel may occur during the rest of this calendar year as determined by resources and business requirements.