

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2011
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Question No: 424

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Cost Benefit Studies

Senator Birmingham asked:

What cost benefit studies has the Department conducted and released on any policy options falling within its responsibility over the past two years?

Answer:

The Department has not conducted and released any formal cost benefit studies over the past two financial years.

The department investigates policy options utilising a range of methodologies which examine the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of those options, such as regulatory impact statements.

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Question No: 425

Program No. Corporate and Business

Hansard Ref: EC 59

Topic: Software Programs

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER—I want to ask a quick question about the software program, Mr Harris. On page 155 of the financial statements ending 30 June 2010, note 6(d), the table refers to software programs and states that the department is working on that account, if you like, for an increase in intangibles of \$5.5 million or so. What are the software programs—are they totally internal to the department?

Senator Conroy—Mr Harris will confirm that in a moment.

Senator FISHER—What are they?

Mr Harris—It will take us a few minutes to work out what those numbers are. The department did upgrade its IT systems internally last year in that particular period. But my colleague advises me that that is unlikely to have been of the order of \$5 million—the figure that you have read out. We can certainly update you on that. I would point out that the department does quite a lot of—if you have ever used our website you will know that we have a highly interactive website available for people which enables you to track programs around the country. That alone will be a pretty significant software investment. My suspicion is that if it is not the upgrading of the department's systems, effectively the Word systems in the department—and I think we had about a seven-year period without investing in that area at all, so we had to do it last year or risk getting completely out of touch—it is probably a combination of things. I can get them listed for you.

Answer:

Internally developed – in progress computer software as at 30 June 2010 totals \$4.715 million (Note 6(d) of the 2009-10 financial statements) and comprises the following:

- Information Management System \$1.536 million
- SAP (Financial Management Information System) \$1.371 million
- Map Integration Application \$0.547 million
- Local Information Finder for Television \$0.385 million
- Disaster Recovery Solution for the Department \$0.378 million
- Web 2.0 Application Development \$0.175 million
- Entry/Exit System \$0.160 million
- Satellite Subsidy InfoSystem \$0.091 million
- Cybersafety Help Button \$0.050 million
- Intranet development \$0.010 million
- Credit card management system (ProMaster) \$0.009 million
- Broadband Customer Online Management System (BCOMS) \$0.005 million.