

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES – 21 FEBRUARY 2011

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO

Q No.	Program	Div	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	Corp	CSD	Birmingham	Travel Expenses	For both calendar year 2010 and financial year 2010-11 to date: 1) How many Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency staff travelled overseas? Please detail by staff member, including their name and position and their total travel expenses. 2) What was the total cost of overseas travel for the Department? Please include a list of all international travel itemised by trip, detailing the number of Departmental staff involved and the cost of each trip including the total amounts spent on accommodation and meals, cities or other destinations visited, the purpose of the travel and any specific outcomes achieved. 3) What was the total amount spent by the Department on overseas accommodation and meals? 4) How many staff travelled first class? 5) How many travelled business class? 6) How many staff travelled interstate? 7) What was the total accommodation and meals bill for staff travelling interstate over the past year? 8) How many future overseas trips is the Department currently planning?	Written	14/04/11 + 4 att'ts	12/05/11
2	Corp	CSD	Birmingham	Conferences	For conferences fully funded by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency could you provide the following information: 1) where was the venue; 2) what was the reason for each conference; 3) how many participants registered; 4) were consultancy fees paid for the organisation of each conference; 5) to whom were the consultancy fees paid; and 6) what was the cost of each consultancy?	Written	30/03/11 + 1 att't	12/05/11
3	Corp	GPSD	Birmingham	Legal costs	Why has the Department's legal bill increased from \$4.5 million in 2008-09 to \$6.1 million in 2009-10?	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
4	1.1	CSMD	Birmingham	Proposed regulatory body	Senator BIRMINGHAM —I refer to the incoming government brief, the strategic brief that was released under FOI—page 74 of that, which is	EC57	06/04/11	12/05/11

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					<p>a whole lot more legible than the rather large black square on page 73. It proposes the creation of a dedicated regulatory capacity for greenhouse energy reporting and renewable energy administration, essentially a joint entity of the ORER and the functions of the department required under the NGERS legislation. Has a decision been made on that proposal?</p> <p>Mr Comley—No.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—So it has not been part of the portfolio bids for the 2011 legislative program, then, as mooted?</p> <p>Mr Comley—No.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Is that still a live proposal?</p> <p>Mr Comley—I have not been definitively told it is dead. It is not occupying a lot of my time, let us put it that way.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Is a brief before the minister or someone to consider it?</p> <p>Mr Comley—Not to my knowledge. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Has it gone anywhere since it appeared in the brief?</p> <p>Mr Comley—Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Thank you, Mr Comley. Anything else I need on that I will put on notice. For the time, that will suffice.</p>			
5	1.1	CSMD	Birmingham	Carbon Price	After allowing for the impact of the current renewable energy target (RET) scheme on carbon emissions through to 2020, what carbon price would be necessary to ensure the achievement of the Government's 2020 5 per cent emissions reduction target?	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
6	1.1	CSMD	Birmingham	Carbon Price	<p>What carbon price would be necessary for existing gas-fired generating plant to displace:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Brown coal in the merit order (i.e. price necessary to run gas fired generating capacity in place of brown coal) 2) Black coal in the merit order (i.e. price necessary to run gas fired generating capacity in place of black coal) <p>In each case:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What domestic gas price has been assumed? b) What assumptions have been made about the prospect of rising gas prices between 2013 and 2020? c) What would be the impact on electricity prices? 	Written	13/05/11	23/06/11
7	1.1	CSMD	Birmingham	Carbon Price	What carbon price would be necessary to build new base load gas fired	Written	13/05/11	23/06/11

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					generating capacity instead of coal?			
8	1.1	CSMD	Birmingham	Carbon Price	What carbon price would be necessary to close existing coal generation and build new base load gas fired generating capacity for: 1) Brown coal 2) Black coal In each case: a) What domestic gas price has been assumed? b) What assumptions have been made about the prospect of rising gas prices between 2013 and 2020? c) What would be the impact on electricity prices?	Written	13/05/11	23/06/11
9	1.1	CSMD	Birmingham	Carbon Price	What analysis has been prepared as to the impact of an emissions trading scheme on the operations of brown coal generators in Victoria?	Written	13/05/11	23/06/11
10	1.1	CSMD	Birmingham	MPCCC	1) When did the MPCCC agree to 1 July 2012 as a possible commencement date for any carbon price mechanism? 2) Were other start dates considered? 3) If so, what options?	Written	06/04/11	12/05/11
11	1.1	CSMD	Birmingham	MPCCC	1) When did the MPCCC agree to a three- to five-year transition period between a fixed price period and a flexible price cap-and-trade emissions trading scheme? 2) Were other options considered? 3) If so, what options?	Written	06/04/11	12/05/11
12	1.1	CSMD	Boswell	CPRS EITE Assistance	Senator BOSWELL —Under the CPRS, what share of Australia's export would have been covered by the EITE scheme? Ms Wilkinson —I will have to take that on notice.	EC16	03/05/11	12/05/11
13	1.1	CSMD	Boswell	RECs	Senator BOSWELL —Last year you indicated that payments for what are now known as SRECs had reached \$1 billion. Given the extraordinary take-up in both solar photovoltaic programs and solar hot water programs, which generated some 25 million RECs, can you give me an updated total outlaid by the government on the programs from 2007, and could you break that down for me into the two types—that is, hot water and photovoltaics? Ms Wilkinson —So you are asking for the uptake of installations of solar photovoltaics and hot water systems since 2007? Senator BOSWELL —Yes. Ms Wilkinson —We can take that on notice. I do not have those data with me.	EC51	06/04/11	12/05/11

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14	1.1	CSMD	Boswell	RET - abatement	<p>Senator BOSWELL—Okay, thank you. That is what I was after. This is my last question. The department has been keeping track of the abatement provided through the SREC program. Given that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is what it is all about, what is the estimate of the abatement that has been achieved through the SREC area, and what is the cost per tonne of abatements? Dr Parkinson said this was very expensive abatement. I just wonder how expensive it is in cost per tonne.</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson—The amount of abatement from the renewable energy target scheme overall?</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—For SREC.</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson—The aggregate estimate is that there will be 30 megatonnes of abatement at 2020 for the renewable energy target scheme overall. I do not have with me the figures for the split of that abatement between large-scale and small-scale schemes but I can certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—Yes, I would appreciate that, and the cost per tonne of abatement.</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson—We have not estimated the cost per tonne of abatement for the SRES itself. A number of estimates have been put in the public domain—estimates of abatement associated with solar installations.</p>	EC55	06/04/11	12/05/11
15	1.1	CSMD	Fisher	Carbon pricing effects on electricity pricing	<p>Senator FISHER—All right. Can you provide this committee on notice with your view as to AiG's estimate of \$300 within the first two years, based on the \$26 price of carbon. Secondly, does the department have a view as to what would be the average annual increase in the average electricity bill based on a \$26 price of carbon in the years after that until 2020?</p> <p>Mr Comley—We have not updated our view, at least in absolute terms, since the modelling done in 2008 that was reported in the white paper. Till we do a full modelling estimate we cannot go beyond that. This is what Ms Harris was alluding to. It is not simply a matter of a one-to-one correlation between what the carbon price is and the electricity impact; you have to look at the dynamics of the electricity market. And even in 2008 there were quite different estimates from three different electricity modellers commissioned by the department as to the extent of price increases. The \$26 figure accords more closely with a pass-through of around one. That means that for one megawatt hour of electricity we</p>	EC46	13/05/11	23/06/11

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					<p>expect on average one tonne of carbon to be passed through. Two other modellers who also model the electricity market had lower pass-through than that. So until you look back at the electricity market, including what has happened to a range of factors such as what has happened to relative gas and coal prices over the last three years, you could not be more definitive without doing a full modelling exercise. So we would base our answer on the white paper and the ALPF confirmation.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—The AiG report—like you, I only got hold of it this morning—would appear to have done that for electricity, gas and energy efficiency. Let's take gas and electricity prices over the last five years. It would appear to have done that work, so—</p> <p>Mr Comley—All I am saying is that it may appear to have done that; we have not gone through and analysed it in detail. We are happy to take it on notice but I do not want to do on-the-fly analysis of a report that we have not gone through in detail.</p>			
16	1.1	CSMD	Fisher	Cleaner Car Rebate	<p>Senator FISHER—Would you recommend it as an effective abatement measure?</p> <p>Mr Comley—I think this goes to a policy question. Clearly, I think, the likely cost per tonne of abatement of a program such as the Cleaner Car Rebate is relatively high compared with a lot of other abatement programs.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Did you actually advise the government on the cost per tonne? What would the cost per tonne have been were it implemented?</p> <p>Mr Comley—We would have provided advice on the cost per tonne, but I do not have the number off the top of my head.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Can you provide that on notice—</p> <p>Mr Comley—I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—in terms of the taxpayer bang for the buck?</p> <p>Mr Comley—My only caveat is that until you get to the specific design details of a program it can be a little difficult to work out exactly what the cost per tonne of abatement is, because you have to look at the precise way it would be implemented.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—You must be able to rate it alongside other so-called carbon abatement measures that the government has implemented.</p> <p>Mr Comley—The difference, of course, is between an implemented</p>	EC79	23/05/11	23/06/11

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					<p>measure and one that has not been implemented, because until you get to the design details of the implementation you do not know how targeted it is in terms of the expected abatement versus the cost. That is the point I am making.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Yes, I hear you. But you will do your best nonetheless.</p> <p>Mr Comley—We will take that on notice.</p>			
17	1.1	CSMD	Ludlam	LNG – Worley Parsons	<p>Senator LUDLAM—The only reference I can find that actually supports that claim is 2008 life cycle analysis done by WorleyParsons for Woodside. Do you or anyone in the department have that study, or have you had the opportunity to read it?</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson—Yes, we have seen that study, and we did analyse it back in 2008.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—Okay, that is great. If I ask you to provide that study to us, will you tell us that it is commercial-in-confidence and that we cannot have it?</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson—I will have to take that on notice. I cannot recall whether or not this was a publicly released study.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—I can confirm for you now, live in Senate estimates, that it has never been publicly released, so it would be a big breakthrough for us if you were able to table it. We have been told it is commercial-in-confidence, so it has actually been impossible to verify that figure. If you had it peer reviewed, or if you are able to provide it to us, that would be great.</p> <p>Mr Comley—We will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—Rather than either handing over the document or—in a couple of weeks, I suspect—telling us that you cannot, could you provide us with any analysis that you have done to either back up that claim or to provide a bit of a breakdown of how it was arrived at? The caveats that you offered in your answer to my first question are entirely accurate, and to me they do not really seem to square with the numbers that the industry is putting out.</p> <p>Mr Comley—We will take on notice provision of the report. Say if I take on notice essentially a question along the lines of what would be the impact nationally and internationally of the export of a tonne of LNG and we take on notice essentially the department providing you some</p>	EC21	09/05/11	12/05/11

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					analysis of that. Is that essentially what you are after? Senator LUDLAM —Yes, that would be really helpful. I would be very keen if you were able to table that report, if you have it. Mr Comley —We will take it on notice. We will do what we normally do in these cases, which is check on the basis on which we were provided the report and whether that causes any complications. Senator LUDLAM —Also, if there is any other literature that we have missed that provides us with a figure in an Australian context?			
18	1.1	CSMD	Ludlam	Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program	Senator LUDLAM —Why was the decision made to get rid of that person, and who is doing that work now? Ms Thompson —The Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program was actually one of the programs that was reviewed by Roger Wilkins through the Wilkins review. That review found that the GGAP program was not in fact complementary to a carbon price, so it was wound up. I believe that the existing project documents under the program were honoured, but the program eventually ran its course. With respect to what happened to the officer, I believe that they were found other duties, but we would probably need to check on that.	EC22	06/04/11	12/05/11
19	1.1	ID	Macdonald	Australia's emissions relative to China	Senator IAN MACDONALD —Following up an answer to Senator Boswell when you said that Australia's output of greenhouse gas compared to China was 'relatively small', on notice could you actually be more precise than that and give us the details? I suppose you would do that by working out what China's is and what ours is, and making a percentage of them? Mr Comley —No problem.	EC22	14/04/11	12/05/11
20	1.1	CSMD	Milne	Abatement from abolition of FBT	Senator MILNE —Who are you working with on the abatement potential if you were to abolish the fringe benefits tax for motor vehicles? Mr Comley —That is a discussion with Treasury. Senator MILNE —You are having that discussion? Mr Comley —We have had that discussion in the past about the likely abatement. Senator MILNE —What is the likely abatement from the abolition of the fringe benefits tax? Mr Comley —I do not have a specific figure. I am not sure if we landed	EC14	03/05/11	12/05/11

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					on a specific figure but my recollection is that it is relatively modest. Senator MILNE —Would you be able to take on notice, please, the assumptions you made, and the estimate in relation to that? Mr Comley —I will take it on notice.			
21	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	HISP/FISP Expenditure	Senator BIRMINGHAM —Along with the taxpayer. In relation to FISP, how much has been spent this financial year to date, on the department's best estimates? Mr Bowles —I would have to take that on notice. I do not keep an up-to-date tally on all of those things. I can take that on notice and see where we are. Senator BIRMINGHAM —There must be some type of recent report that was provided to Mr Comley, Finance, Treasury or somebody. Mr Bowles —No, we do not have one at the table or even behind me, but I can take that on notice.	EC62	30/03/11	12/05/11
22	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	South Australian installations under the HIP	Senator BIRMINGHAM —Do you have a cost as to how much you expect to be reimbursing the South Australian government? Mr Bowles —No, I do not. As I said, that will be subject to separate negotiations with the South Australian government. Senator BIRMINGHAM —Can you take that on notice, please?	EC68	14/04/11	12/05/11
23	1.2	GPSD	Birmingham	HIP – Claims against the Commonwealth	Senator BIRMINGHAM —I am not necessarily asking whether Mr Comley or Mr Bowles should be managing that level of detail. But, as to whether the Commonwealth has got good value for money out of its contract, I am interested in some of those details. If Mr Bowles is able to get them then that would be of assistance. The last area is in relation to claims for compensation. Question No. 25, taken on notice, tells me that legal proceedings seeking damages for personal injury have been initiated against the Commonwealth in connection with the Home Insulation Program by one householder and one ceiling inspector. In addition, as at 12 November, the Commonwealth has received approximately 24 other claims for compensation which have yet to be resolved. Have those numbers changed and have any of those claims or actions been resolved? Mr Bowles —Probably in the first two categories, I am not aware of any others in connection with the householder and the ceiling inspector. I think it is still one apiece. I think there are a few more in that second category. I would have to take it on notice. But I am pretty sure it is	EC72	30/03/11	12/05/11

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					<p>more than 24 at this stage. It is not significantly more, but I could not tell you off the top of my head. I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—So there are no additional cases where legal proceedings have been initiated?</p> <p>Mr Bowles—No, that is not what I said. I said that there are no more in those first two categories-the householder and the ceiling inspector- as far as I am aware. So there is one apiece, as in the answer. In the third lot there , where it talks about 24 other claims for compensation-is that right?</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—That is right.</p> <p>Mr Bowles—I believe there are more in that category, but I would have to take it on notice to tell you what they are. This would have been updated as of 12 November.</p>			
24	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	FISP	<p>With reference to the template for the Electrical Safety Inspection – Foil Insulation Record and Testing, provided in response to Senate Estimates Question on Notice No. 52 from the Budget Estimates 2010, please detail all data collated regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 1.8 –contractors being unable to gain access (expressed both as a number and a percentage) 2) 3.1 – voltage being detected (expressed both as a number and a percentage) 3) 3.5 – Insulation Resistance tests and measurements 4) 4.1 and 4.2 – electrical defects identified during testing, and wiring defects (expressed both as a number and a percentage) 5) 4.4 to 4.10 – observations on foil insulation installation 6) 6.1 – testing and rectification completion (expressed both as a number and a percentage) 	Written	30/03/11	12/05/11
25	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	HISP/FISP	How many instances of substandard insulation or installation practices have been identified through inspections undertaken to date through either the Home Insulation Safety Program or Foil Insulation Safety Program?	Written	10/05/11	12/05/11
26	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	HIP	Without simply providing a reference to the AusTenders website, please provide a full list of consultancies engaged as part of the Home Insulation Program, detailing names, the purpose of the consultancy, the cost and when it was done, as well as the expected completion date and actual completion date.	Written /EC63	30/03/11	12/05/11

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27	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	REBS – SHWR	1) How many payments, and for what total dollar amount, remain outstanding under the Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme - Solar Hot Water Rebate? 2) What is the average processing time in relation to these payments?	Written	30/03/11	12/05/11
28	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	Green Loans	1) How many cases of fraudulent assessments under the Green Loans Program have been identified by the Department? 2) What actions have been taken in response to any fraudulent assessments having been identified?	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
29	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	Green Loans	1) How many claims for payment have been lodged under the Green Loans program a) This financial year? b) Over the life of the program? 2) How many of these claims for payment, and to what value, are outstanding or remain unresolved?	Written	30/03/11	12/05/11
30	1.2	GPSD	Birmingham	Green Loans	1) How many claims for compensation in relation to the Green Loans program has the Department received a) This financial year? b) Over the life of the program? 2) How many of these claims for compensation, and to what value, remain unresolved? 3) What has been the total value of compensation both claimed and paid?	Written	30/03/11	12/05/11
31	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham	Green Loans	What action is being taken to address advice having been provided to assessors, for example by email of July 2009 as identified in the ANAO's Performance Audit Report No. 9, 2010-11, that assessors were to be offered additional training at no cost?	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
32	1.2	GPSD	Birmingham	Green Loans	With reference to a 25 January 2011 letter from Justin Hyland, General Counsel, to uncontracted Green Loans assessors advising of the discontinuation of CDDA Scheme claims: 1) Who determined that these CDDA Scheme claims were to be discontinued, and when was this decision taken? 2) Who approved Mr Hyland's letter being sent to those who had lodged claims?	Written	30/03/11	12/05/11
33	1.2	REED	Birmingham	PM's Task Group on Energy	1) What consultation took place in the development of the Task Group's report? 2) Were workshops, public hearings and the like conducted?	Written	30/03/11	12/05/11

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				Efficiency	3) If so, where and when?			
34	1.2	REED	Birmingham	PM's Task Group on Energy Efficiency	1) What consultation is being or has been undertaken in the development of a Government response? 2) If public consultation was conducted in the development of the report, why does the Government feel the need to replicate the process in developing the Government response to the report?	Written	30/03/11	12/05/11
35	1.2	ESPD	Fisher	South Australian installations under the HIP	Senator FISHER —Of those 3,303 inspected, how many homes were insulated by installers not licensed as they are required to be under the South Australian laws? Mr Bowles —I would have to take that on notice. We do not necessarily keep it in that sort of order.	EC67	14/04/11	12/05/11
36	1.2	ESPD	Fisher	South Australian HIP installers	Senator FISHER —And of those, how many were insulated by unlicensed installers? Mr Bowles —I would have to take that part on notice. We may not be able to answer that, because we do not necessarily keep it in that sort of order, but we will see what we can do.	EC70	14/04/11	12/05/11
37	1.2	ESPD	Fisher	HISP/FISP	Please provide a state by state breakdown of the number of homes inspected under the Home Insulation Safety Program and the Foil Insulation Safety Program.	Written	10/05/11	12/05/11
38	1.2	ESPD	Fisher	HISP/FISP	Please provide a state by state breakdown of the number of calls made to the insulation Safety Hotline requesting home inspections.	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
39	1.2	ESPD	Fisher	HISP/FISP	Please provide a state by state breakdown of the number of home inspections undertaken as a result of calls to the insulation Safety Hotline.	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
40	1.2	REED	Ludlam	Building Energy Efficiency	Senator LUDLAM —What you could maybe help us pull out, then, is what the estimated lifetime dwelling was for that study and whether discounting was used to basically eliminate or discount future benefit, because that is not clear to me on my reading. Mr Comley —We can check on that, but I would be very surprised and it would be highly unusual not to discount the benefits, because they occur at a different time to the capital costs. Senator LUDLAM —Yes, and that is why we undergo schemes like the home insulation one, where we say, 'Actually, in theory-it was not in this instance-'it's worth insulating people's homes and giving them a leg-up, otherwise no-one is ever going to afford to capture those future benefits'. Anyway, I will leave it there.	EC75	30/03/11	12/05/11

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					Obviously, we are not going to solve this one tonight. But, if it is possible for you to pull out for us how much the future benefits were discounted at least, that would be helpful. Mr Comley —Sure.			
41	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	QHI Installations	Senator TROETH —Did the government ever withhold any payments to that company, QHI Installations? Mr Bowles —I could not tell you. I would have to take that on notice. Senator TROETH —If you would—and, if it did, the reason for it as well. Had there been complaints about their workmanship at any other houses? Mr Bowles —Not to my knowledge. Senator TROETH —And how many houses did that company install insulation in? Mr Bowles —I do not have that; I would have to take that on notice. Senator TROETH —If you would, and also how much they were paid for that. Mr Bowles —Yes, Senator.	EC61	09/05/11	12/05/11
42	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	HIP - Company involved in fatality	1) What compensation has the Government offered to the families of Mr Barnes? 2) Did the government ever withhold payments to the company? If so, why? 3) Have there been any complaints about their workmanship at any other houses? 4) How many houses did the company install insulation? 5) How much were they paid? 6) Does the company still exist? 7) Did the Government take any action to shut them down or to name and shame them as the previous Minister promised he would do against companies involved in dodgy or dangerous activities?	Written/EC62	10/05/11	12/05/11
43	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	HIP - Company involved in Mitchell Sweeney fatality	1) What involvement is the Government playing in relation to the prosecution of the company in the case of Mitchell Sweeney? 2) Was the Government represented at the initial hearing against Mr Sweeney's employer on February 8 th this year? 3) What happened at this hearing? 4) Did the government ever withhold payments to the company? If so, why?	Written/EC62	09/05/11	12/05/11

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					5) Have there been any complaints about their workmanship at any other houses? 6) How many houses did the company install insulation? 7) How much were they paid? 8) Does the company still exist? 9) Did the Government take any action to shut them down or to name and shame them as the previous Minister promised he would do against companies involved in dodgy or dangerous activities?			
44	1.2	ESPD	Birmingham /Troeth	HISP/FISP	1) How can you justify flying safety inspectors from Queensland to all the way to Western Australia 2) Isn't this another massive waste in a wasteful \$2.45 billion program? 3) Can you tell us more about how many people you are flying around Australia to carry out safety inspections? 4) How many people had flying interstate? 5) How much are you spending on interstate trips for the safety program? 6) How much are you spending all up on the Home Insulation Safety Plan and the Foil Insulation Safety Program? 7) Given the enormous Queensland Flood Recovery effort underway, isn't it just plain wrong to be pulling people with trade skills out of the disaster zones and sending them to the other side of Australia (and at taxpayer's expense?).	Written/EC71	16/05/11	23/06/11
45	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	HIP Installation Company	Last year, Minister Combet revealed the Government was investigating a company from northern NSW which had claimed nearly \$10m under the government program – and that some 100 complaints concerning electrification, damage to ceilings and roof coverings and phantom insulation were being investigated. 1) Can you tell us what happened to this company in question that claimed almost \$10m? 2) Was that the final tally – or was it higher? 3) Was that the single biggest claiming company? 4) Can you please provide a detailed list of the top 20 companies that made claims, in terms of the total cost, and include name of the company, the dollars, the dates and where they were based and operated?	Written	10/05/11 + 1 att't	12/05/11

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46	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	Wagga House Fire Incident	1) When was the insulation installed? 2) Who was the company? 3) Where was the company from? 4) Did the government ever withhold payments to the company? If so, why? 5) Have there been any complaints about their workmanship at any other houses? 6) Does the company still exist? 7) How many houses did the company install insulation? 8) How much were they paid? 9) a) Had this house been inspected under the random selection of the Home Insulation Safety Plan? b) If so, when? c) What were the results? d) If not, why not?	Written/EC58	09/05/11	12/05/11
47	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	Wagga House Fire Incident	1) What does the Government know about the cause of the fire? 2) When did the Minister first find out that the house in which the three family members died had received insulation under his program? 3) When did the Minister publicly confirm the link? 4) How long was it between the Minister finding out about the fire and him revealing it? 5) Why did he hide the fact from the public? 6) Why did he not confirm it almost straight away as he did in relation to the fatal house-fire in Parkes in April last year? 7) How did the Government find out about the link in the first place? 8) Are there standard procedures to ensure that fire authorities make contact with the Government straight away to cross check against homes that received insulation? 9) Who received the first advice in the Department of the link? 10) How long was it before they told the Minister's office? 11) Who did they tell in the Minister's office? 12) Did the police specifically request that the link between the fatal house fire and the Government's Home Insulation Program NOT be made 13) Who in the Police service made this request? 14) Did they instigate the request or did the request 'come as a result of	Written	23/05/11	23/06/11

Q No.	Program	Div	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
					discussions with the Department'?			
48	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	Wagga House Fire Incident	1) Where is the investigation up to? 2) Have investigators made a preliminary assessment as to the cause? 3) Have you at least had any indication as to the cause? For example, where did the fire start? 4) Can you rule out that it didn't start in the roof area, where the insulation was installed?	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
49	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	Wagga House Fire Incident	1) Has the Minister made contact with any members of the family? 2) If not why not?	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
50	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	HIP Fires	1) How many house fires have now resulted from the Government's Home Insulation Program? 2) Why are we still getting reports of house fires, nearly a year after the program was shut down? 3) According to the Climate Change website: "the Fire Brigade attended two new fire incidents linked to the Home Insulation Program in with one in Victoria in November 2012 and one in New South Wales in January 2011." Can you tell us more about these fires, which occurred just recently, in November last year, and January this year? 4) How long can the public expect the risk of house fires from dodgy insulation installations to continue? 5) Could the risk last for year? 6) How many years? 7) Can you provide a break-down of the fires, with details of the date, the location, a brief description of the extent of the damage, and a cost of the damage for each incident? 8) Can you at least tell us what the total damage cost has been? 9) In addition to the (at least) four people who have died as a result of the fire, can you inform us how many people have been injured, and the nature of such inquiries?	Written/EC59	09/05/11	12/05/11
51	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	Compensation	1) What compensation has the Government offered to the families of Mr Fuller and Miss Pridmore? 2) Did the government ever withhold payments to the company? If so, why? 3) Have there been any complaints about their workmanship at any other houses?	Written	10/05/11	12/05/11

Q No.	Program	Div	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
					4) How many houses did the company install insulation? 5) How much were they paid?			
52	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	HIP Fraud	<p>EXAMPLE 1</p> <p><i>Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2011</i></p> <p><i>Dear J,</i></p> <p><i>Further to my phone call, a constituent contacted the electorate office in order to raise concern regarding the installation of ceiling insulation at his daughter's residence in Templestowe.</i></p> <p><i>I understand Ms N was approached by a solar insulation company when the Federal Government's Home Insulation Scheme was active and offered her an extremely competitive price, which she accepted. Ms N has the corresponding paperwork and contact details of the company.</i></p> <p><i>Yesterday, Ms N was approached by another solar insulation company who offered to conduct a risk assessment/safety check of the ceiling insulation. The tradesman discovered that Ms N did not have any insulation in her roof, despite the original installers arriving with a large bundle of insulation on the day.</i></p> <p>1) How come this kind of thing occurred?</p> <p>2) Why are we still getting reports like this?</p> <p>3) Can you tell me how many cases of such waste and rorting you received? In particular, cases where no insulation was installed at all; and how many reports all up you received of fabricated claims.</p> <p>4) How much did such claims cost taxpayers?</p> <p>5) Out of the 1.2 million or so homes which allegedly go insulation, how many installers were prosecuted by the Government for shonky operations?</p> <p>6) How many were actually named and shamed, as Minister Garrett said they would be?</p> <p>7) Can we get a full list and details of the offences they committed?</p> <p>8) Is this list available to the public now?</p> <p>9) If not, why not?</p>	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
53	1.2	ESPD	Troeth	HIP Compensation	According to an answer to a Question on Notice received in recent days there despite there being 4 deaths, over 200 house fires and many businesses sent to the wall, we are led to believe not a single	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11

Q No.	Program	Div	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
					<p>compensation claim has been lodged or paid.</p> <p>1) Can you confirm this to be the case?</p> <p>2) Why is this so?</p> <p>3) What provision for compensation has been made:</p> <p>a) For the families of the victims of those who perished?</p> <p>b) For those whose houses burnt down or were damaged?</p>			
54	1.2	CSMD	Troeth	HIP Abatement	<p>Also, I want to explore the environmental claims which founded this program.</p> <p>When it was unveiled in 2009, the Prime Minister and the other members of the Gang of Four boasted that it would save 50 million tonnes of CO2.</p> <p>1) What is the estimate now?</p> <p>2) Given the enormous cost of the program, how much does that work out to in terms of cost-per-tonne in emissions abatement?</p> <p>3) How does that compare with the promises under the Cash for Clunkers program?</p>	Written	16/05/11	23/06/11
55	1.3	ASCD	Birmingham	Climate Commission	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—How much funding is essentially committed by virtue of the budgeted sitting fees, the expected costs of travel and those types of things as against discretionary, shall we say, expenditure for the commission?</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—I would really have to take that on notice. The reason for that is that the commission has only had one meeting, and it has only begun its set of deliberations. It hopes to wind those up fairly soon, out of session, about what kinds of activities it might undertake. It will be much easier to form a clearer sense of a budget once that is settled. We would only be able to provide you with a rough estimate at this point.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Surely in terms of the figures that have been published in the additional estimates papers, the department obviously has made some estimates of what the cost of payment to the commissioners will be. Is there a payment to the scientific advisory panel as well?</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—Yes, but it is a very small payment. Each member of the scientific advisory panel is paid sort of a one-off retainer, and then a daily fee for when they are asked to provide advice by the commission.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Could you provide that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—Certainly.</p>	EC33	06/04/11	12/05/11

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56	1.3	ASCD	Birmingham	Climate Commission	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—To go back to the point, the department would obviously have done some budgeting of how much the commissioners will be paid, how much the scientific panel will be paid, what the travel expenses will be, and then presumably made a reasonable estimate of other discretionary operational expenses for the commission?</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—Yes.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Do we have any of those figures to hand as to what that breakdown is and what those discretionary figures are?</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—We did have an additional estimate. Clearly some of that will have to be adjusted. I do not have those to hand, but am very happy to provide that on notice if you would like.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—If you provide as much of that breakdown as possible, that would be appreciated.</p>	EC33	06/04/11	12/05/11
57	1.3	ASCD	Birmingham	Climate Commission	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—When was the decision made as to what the structure would be—how many commissioners and how it would be structured?</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—I would have to take that on notice. There was a bit of a process, obviously, in advising the minister and the lead-up to the appointment and to the announcement of the commission, but I would really have to take on notice when that decision was actually made.</p>	EC34	06/04/11	12/05/11
58	1.3	ASCD	Birmingham	Climate Commission	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—How many potential commissioners were identified?</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—I cannot recall off hand. I think there were quite a number.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—If you could provide that on notice, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—Certainly.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Thank you. Again, did anyone decline to participate as a commissioner?</p> <p>Ms Sidhu—Not that I recall.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—If you could just confirm that as well, that would also be appreciated.</p>	EC34	06/04/11	12/05/11
59	1.3	ASCD	Macdonald	Climate Change Science	<p>Mr Comley—We continually review the state of the science. In fact, not a couple of weeks ago after taking over in this role in an acting capacity I sought a briefing from our science team. I asked them the question, ‘How do we in fact keep across of the developments in the science?’ The summary answer is that we do try and keep abreast of the peer-reviewed</p>	EC7	06/04/11	12/05/11

Q No.	Program	Div	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
					scientific literature as it relates to climate change, which of course is a process that tries to take hypothesis observations that many people, both scientists and nonscientists make, and subject it to rigorous scrutiny. That team follows the peer-reviewed scientific literature and obviously both take the results and, in some cases, inputs into the IPCC process, which is a rigorous process that has, from recollection, between 2,000 and 3,000 scientists globally engaged in that process, including a further peer review process. I am happy for us to take it on notice to look at that list and provide any analysis or commentary we have. But in general, our approach to assessing to the state of the science is to go back to the peer-reviewed literature, the synthesis of the peer-reviewed literature that comes out of the IPCC and various academies of science, and use that as a basis for forming judgments about feeding into the policy process and informing the public.			
60	1.3	ASCD	Macdonald	Climate Commission	Mr Leeper —As I understand the financial management accountability framework, any expenditure of public funds would need to be authorised by a departmental official. Unless I have read the material incorrectly, it is not intended that the Climate Commission manage its own budget; the department will provide that support. I may have that wrong, so we will take it on notice and check it. But the general principle would be that, where public funds are being expended, a delegate needs to be satisfied that the expenditure of funds represents efficient, ethical and effective use of public money and, in all cases involving overseas travel, the relevant delegate would satisfy themselves of that.	EC31	06/04/11	12/05/11
61	1.3	ASCD	Macdonald	Climate Commission	<p>1) Will Tim Flannery, as part of his new part-time role in educating the Australian public about the so-called science of climate change (global warming) be educating them about his belief in telekinesis which he has cited as having a major role in climate?</p> <p>2) A quote from the first Edition of his book, "The Weather Makers: the History and Future Impact of Climate Change" is "Our global civilisation is telekinetic, which is why it is such a force in the biosphere, but its telekinesis also explains why regional disruptions - such as wars, famines and diseases - can have dire consequences for humanity as a whole."</p> <p>WordNet Search defines "telekinesis" as S: (n) telekinesis, psychokinesis (the power to move something</p>	Written	06/04/11	12/05/11

Q No.	Program	Div	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
					by thinking about it without the application of physical force) Does the Minister believe that an acceptance of this theory is appropriate for a person selected by the Government to lead the Climate Commission?			
62	1.3	ASCD	Macdonald	Climate Science	<p>I refer the Minister to the undermentioned media report.</p> <p>“Wong slimes experts who’d wipe the floor with her own</p> <p>Andrew Bolt – Tuesday, February 22, 11 (09:22 am) Finance Minister Penny Wong believes that any scientist who queries her warming faith is ludicrously stupid. Here she is replying to a question from a Liberal Senator on paying climate alarmist Tim Flannery, a paleontologist, \$180,000 a year to promote the Government’s warmist argument:</p> <p><i>IAN MACDONALD: But you’re providing money to educate the public on their view of climate science and I assume from that in fairness you’ll be providing professor [Bob] Carter and his literally thousands of professional colleagues with similar funding so that they can educate the public on their view on the science.</i></p> <p><i>PENNY WONG: Well Senator there are also people who believe the world is flat and the Government doesn’t fund that.</i></p> <p>Here’s just some of the scientists that Wong damns so casually as “flat earthers”: Professor Bob Carter, Professor Richard Lindzen, Professor Nir Shaviv, Professor Vincent Courtillot, Professor Freeman Dyson, Professor William Happer, Professor Henrik Svensmark, Professor Willie Wei-Hock Soon, Professor David Henderson, Professor John Christy, Roy W. Spencer, Professor Anthony Kelly and Professor Ross McKittrick.”</p> <p>Will the Minister apologise to the scientists named below (and many others) who she so rudely, inaccurately and maliciously maligned and defamed under Parliamentary Privilege during Estimates on 21 February 2011?</p>	Written	06/04/11	12/05/11

Q No.	Program	Div	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
63	1.4	ID	Birmingham	Cancun	1) How many people were in the Government delegation that attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, including any from other departments or agencies and Ministerial offices? 2) Please identify each person and their role(s).	Written	06/04/11	12/05/11
64	1.4	ID	Birmingham	Cancun	1) How many ministerial advisers and ministerial media advisers attended? 2) Which staff attended from Minister Combet's office and what were their roles? 3) Did anyone from the Prime Minister's office attend?	Written	15/04/11	12/05/11
65	1.4	ID	Birmingham	Cancun	1) What class air travel did Ministerial staff fly to and from Mexico? 2) What hotels did they stay at?	Written	06/04/11	12/05/11
66	ORER	ORER	Birmingham	RECs	1) How many Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) expressed both as a number and a percentage, and to what total value expressed both as a dollar amount and a percentage, have been invalidated in financial year 2010/11 to date? 2) On what grounds were they invalidated? 3) How many companies have been involved and what action has been taken against them? 4) What regulatory or inspection measures have been taken by the ORER regarding invalid RECs? 5) What data does the ORER have on any compliance problems it has uncovered or identified? What steps are being taken to ensure greater compliance? 6) Has any rectification work been required to be undertaken?	Written	06/04/11	12/05/11
67	1.2	HIPRO	Troeth	HIP Incidents	Can you confirm whether the government or department are aware of any other deaths (other than those of Mitchell Sweeney, Marcus Wilson, Reuben Barnes and Matthew Fuller) or injuries which may in any way be linked to the Home Insulation Program?	Written	09/05/11	12/05/11
68	1.2	HIPRO	Troeth	HIP - Company involved in Marcus Wilson fatality	Senator TROETH —There are two other victims: Mitchell Sweeney; and Marcus Wilson, who died of heat stress, although I understand that no charges have been laid against anyone in relation to his death. If you have any information along similar question lines for those two incidents, could you provide them to me as well.	EC62	10/05/11	12/05/11
69	1.3	ASCD	Macdonald	Climate Commission	Senator IAN MACDONALD —Minister, as the representative of Mr Combet, do you think, or can you take on notice for Mr Combet, that	EC25	06/04/11	12/05/11

Q No.	Program	Div	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
					<p>paying a part-time chairman more than a backbencher, indeed more than a minister of the Crown, gets as a salary is an appropriate use of taxpayers' money?</p> <p>Senator Wong—As I understand Mr Comley's answer, it is not unusual for people in this position to be paid these sorts of amounts. My recollection in previous matters in which I have had some involvement is that referencing of a particular salary level within the Australian Public Service is the normal practice. I can certainly take it on notice and see if Mr Combet has anything further to add.</p>			
70	1.3	ASCD	Macdonald	Climate Commission	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I have read a newspaper report that suggests that Mr Flannery does have shares in a company called Geodynamics. It is only a newspaper report so I cannot vouch for its accuracy. It would be interesting to know, though, would it not? Could you take on notice and see if the register of interest does show that he has those sorts of interests? I am sure in his defence if that is not true, it would be good for the public to know that this newspaper report that I am quoting from is not accurate.</p> <p>Senator Wong—We will check what further information we can or cannot give you but the general approach, in relation to these types of appointments, is that the government is advised of conflicts of interest potentials in relation to a whole range of board appointments. Certainly in my portfolio that is a standard part of the documentation that comes forward; it would have been when you were a minister too. I do not believe there is a practice in general terms of publishing the financial information of everybody the government appoints to a position.</p>	EC26	06/04/11	12/05/11