

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

Question No: 115
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: Portfolio wide – Official Hospitality and Entertainment
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 7 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

- a) What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?

a) The Department of the Environment (the Department) spent \$4,791.00 (GST inc) on hospitality from 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
14/11/2013	Australian National Botanic gardens	Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) 40 the Anniversary Celebration Event	\$1,335.00
16/12/2013	Peppermint Bay, Woodbridge TAS	Welcome dinner for visiting Korean cetacean researchers to enhance the collaborative relationship relating to non-lethal whale research	\$154.00
20/12/2013	Prossers, Sandy Bay TAS	Farewell dinner for visiting Korean cetacean researchers to enhance the collaborative relationship relating to non-lethal whale research	\$393.00
26/02/2014	Blu Ginger Restaurant, Canberra	Workshop dinner for participants of the Natural Resource Management Program	\$2,100.00
20/02/2014	Ottoman Restaurant, Canberra	Lunch for the Department's Indigenous Water Advisory Committee members in recognition of their last meeting and significant contribution to Commonwealth policy advice.	\$809.00

The Director of National Parks has spent \$113.10 (GST inc) on hospitality for the period 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
03/12/2013	Kingston, ACT	Dinner meeting with New Zealand Delegate to discuss possible indigenous staff secondment agreement between New Zealand and Kakadu National Park.	\$113.10

The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) spent \$2,156.50 (GST inc) on hospitality for 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
28/11/2013	Melbourne	Official Hospitality (dinner) relating to 16 th meeting of the Jurisdictional Reference Group for Water Information	\$1,948.00
21/01/2014	Melbourne	Official Hospitality (dinner) for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Center, Korea delegation visit	\$208.50

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) spent \$6,489.51 (GST inc) on hospitality for 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
24/10/2013	Mezzalira Canberra	Basin Officials Committee Dinner	\$1,204.50
26/11/2013	Rowland Commercial Catering	Northern Basin Advisory Committee Dinner	\$1,600.01
14/11/2013	Hotel Realm Canberra	MDB Ministerial Council Officials Dinner	\$2,845.00
14/11/2013	Waters Edge Canberra	MDB Ministerial Council Members Dinner	\$840.00

The National Water Commission spent \$658.90 (GST inc) on hospitality for 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
6/11/2013	Canberra ACT	Meeting with stakeholder on urban water planning engagement	\$14.40
18/11/2013	Canberra ACT	Commissioners' strategic discussions on the Commission's work program	\$644.50

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust) spent \$10,987.73 (GST inc) on hospitality for 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
29/10/13 (paid for after 1/11/13)	Cockatoo Island	Australian Convict World Heritage Group	\$667.73
18/12/13	North Head	Tenant and Volunteer Christmas Function	\$10,320.00

The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) spent \$1,115.50 (GST inc) on hospitality for 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
04/12/2013	Trunk Restaurant and Bar, Melbourne VIC	The event provided a forum for discussion between members of the Clean Energy Regulator, agency executive and representatives of various stakeholder organisations who are directly impacted by the schemes administered by the Clean Energy Regulator.	\$1,115.50

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and Climate Change Authority (CCA) have not spent any funds on hospitality for 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014.

- b) According to Departmental records, there has been no expenditure on official hospitality for the offices of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for the period 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.
- c) Departmental entertainment expenses are reported at question a), as they are incorporated in official hospitality. No agencies have reported any additional entertainment expenses for the period 1 November to 31 January 2014.
- d) According to Departmental records, there has been no expenditure on entertainment for the offices of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for the period 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.
- e) Please see below the planned hospitality spend for the Department and portfolio agencies for the period from 31 January 2014. Details of date, location, purpose, and estimated cost are provided.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
29/02/2014	Chairman and Yip, Canberra	Informal dinner for Association of South East Asian Nations Forestry and Climate Change delegation (ARKN - FCC)	\$1,850.00
20/02/2014	Bel Paese Italian Restaurant, Sydney	Australian-New Zealand Environment bilateral discussions in Sydney, involving six Australian Government delegates and nine New Zealand delegates.	\$860.00
26/03/2014	Adria Restaurant, Sydney	Official dinner for international workshop for technical experts and climate change negotiators in the agricultural sector.	\$820.00
26/03/2014	Park Regis North Quay, Brisbane	Networking and welcome event for Papua New Guinea (PNG) partners and other Australian Government agencies responsible for administering the Kokoda Initiative following the first day of the Biannual Planning Meeting.	\$622.50
27/03/2014	Urbane Restaurant, Brisbane	Dinner networking event for PNG partners and other Australian Government agencies responsible for administering the Kokoda Initiative following the first day of the Biannual Planning Meeting.	\$1,500.00
31/03/2014	Bicicletta, Canberra	Official dinner for Australia-Kenya bilateral meeting of technical experts and climate change negotiators in the agricultural sector.	\$297.00
15-25 June 2014	Doha, Qatar	Side event to present Australia's offset policy to the World Heritage Committee, other States Parties and Advisory Bodies.	\$3,000.00

The National Water Commission has the following planned official hospitality:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
6/02/2014	Melbourne	Stakeholder workshop to assist the Commission to obtain evidence for the Urban Futures project	\$556.70
Two Commission meetings are planned, however details are not yet finalised.			

The GBRMPA has budgeted \$6,000.00 for hospitality for the 2013-14 financial year, of which none has yet been expended.

The Bureau, Director of National Parks, MDBA, CER, CCA and the Trust have not reported any planned hospitality expenditure for the period from 31 January 2014.

- f) Please see below the planned hospitality spend for the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary for the period from 31 January 2014 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
09/04/2014	MIA Head Office, Hanwood NSW	At the request of his office, the Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon Senator Simon Birmingham will be visiting communities and meeting key stakeholders in the southern Murray Darling Basin from 9-11 April 2014 (Murrumbidgee Irrigation Board and Execs).	\$396.00
09/04/2014	MIA Head Office, Hanwood NSW	At the request of his office, the Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Birmingham will be visiting communities and meeting key stakeholders in the southern Murray Darling Basin from 9-11 April 2014 (Murrumbidgee Irrigation stakeholder meeting).	\$207.90
10/04/2014	The Crossing Cafe, Deniliquin NSW	At the request of his office, the Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Birmingham will be visiting communities and meeting key stakeholders in the southern Murray Darling Basin from 9-11 April 2014 (Murray Irrigation Board).	\$412.50

10/04/2014	The Crossing Cafe, Deniliquin NSW	At the request of his office, the Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Birmingham will be visiting communities and meeting key stakeholders in the southern Murray Darling Basin from 9-11 April 2014 (Murray stakeholders meeting).	\$631.40
11/04/2014	Sun Rice Processing Mill, Deniliquin NSW	At the request of his office, the Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Birmingham will be visiting communities and meeting key stakeholders in the southern Murray Darling Basin from 9-11 April 2014 (Sun Rice Board and rice industry stakeholders).	\$264.00

- g) No entertainment is being planned by the Department or Agencies.
- h) According to records of the Department there is no planned entertainment spend for the offices of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for the period from 31 January 2014 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.
- i) The Department and Agencies tightly manage expenditure on official hospitality and allocates resources to areas of highest priority only.