

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, May 2011

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	127
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Conferences		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

What is the total expenditure on conferences both:

- a. in-house, that is, held within the LCAL; and
- b. external, held by the LCAL on a month-by-month basis since July 2010?

For conferences fully funded by LCAL and costing in excess of \$30,000:

- i. where was the venue;
- ii. what was the reason for each conference;
- iii. how many participants registered;
- iv. were consultancy fees paid for the organisation of each conference;
- v. to whom were the consultancy fees paid; and
- vi. what was the cost of each consultancy.

For conferences part-sponsored or part-funded by LCAL and costing the Commonwealth in excess of \$30,000:

1. what was the cost to LCAL;
2. what was the proportion of Commonwealth funding as against the total cost of the conference;
3. what was the rationale for the sponsorship or part-funding;
4. what was the venue;
5. how many participants registered;
6. did the Commonwealth contribute to any consultant organising the conference; if so, who was the consultant; and
7. how much was the Commonwealth's contribution?

Answer:

- a. Nil.
- b. Nil.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	128
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Freedom of Information Requests		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the LCAL received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?

Answer:

No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	129
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Reviews		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many Reviews are currently being undertaken by the LCAL?
- b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- c. What reviews have been concluded FYTD?
- d. What further reviews are planned for 2010 - 11 FY?
- e. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- f. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- g. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?

Answer:

- a. None.
- b. Not applicable.
- c. None.
- d. No further reviews are planned for the 2010-11 financial year.
- e. No reviews have been conducted and therefore no reviews have been provided to Government.
- f. Not applicable.
- g. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	130
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Consultancies		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Does the LCAL stand by its current tenders on the Austenders website?
- b. Have any changes or corrections been made for any tenders advertised on to Government Tenders website (www.tenders.gov.au) for tenders advertised this financial year? Explain.
- c. Are up to date with reporting requirements?

Answer:

- a. Yes.
- b. No changes have been made.
- c. Yes.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	131
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Media Subscriptions – Pay TV		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Does the LCAL subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.

Answer:

No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	132
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Media Subscriptions – Newspapers		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Does the LCAL subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) has incurred year to date expenditure of \$1,265 on newspapers.

LCAL subscribes to:

- *The Australian*;
- *The Australian Financial Review*; and
- *The Financial Times* (the online version only).

LCAL operates in a commercial environment and invests money with a range of business partners. The newspaper subscriptions are an important source of business intelligence for industry developments, issues and analysis, particularly for the financial and property sectors and international business developments, economic and industry trends.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	133
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Media Subscriptions – Magazines		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Does the LCAL subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) has incurred year to date expenditure of \$484 on magazines.

LCAL subscribes to:

- *BRW*; and
- *MarketingMag*.

The *BRW* magazine subscription is used as a reference for current affairs, business and industry issues and developments.

The *MarketingMag* subscription is used as a reference guide for events, marketing trends, issues and current affairs.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	134
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Social Media		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has there been any changes to LCAL social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since October 2010? If yes, please explain.

Answer:

There have been no changes to Low Carbon Australia Limited social media or protocols about staff access and usage of Youtube, online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, and access to online discussions forums and blogs since October 2010, other than to reflect the change of company name.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	135
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Hawker Britton		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the LCAL ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing Hawker Britton.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	136
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Shannon’s Way		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the LCAL ever employed Shannon’s Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon’s Way? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing Shannon’s Way.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	137
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – John Utting & UMR Research Group		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the LCAL ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	138
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – McCann-Erickson		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the LCAL ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing McCann-Erickson.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	139
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Cutting Edge		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the LCAL ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing Cutting Edge.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	140
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Ikon Communications		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has LCAL ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing Ikon Communications.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	141
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – CMAX Communications		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the LCAL ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing CMAX Communications.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	142
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Boston Consulting Group		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has LCAL ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing Boston Consulting Group.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	143
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – McKinsey & Company		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has LCAL ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not employed and is not considering employing McKinsey & Company.

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 144
Program: LCAL
Division/Agency: LCAL
Topic: Government Payments of Accounts
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Has the LCAL paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
- b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

- a. Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) has paid its accounts to contractors/consultants in accordance with Australian Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days). There were a total of six invoices, representing less than 1 per cent by purchase value of all invoices that were paid in excess of 30 days. Delayed payments resulted from invoices not being received in a timely manner, containing errors that needed to be resolved with suppliers, or awaiting supporting information from the suppliers.

Payment terms	Percentage by dollar value	Percentage by number of payments
<=15 days	88.8%	81.1%
>15 days <=30 days	10.4%	17.8%
>30 days <=45 days	0.3%	0.8%
>45 days <=60 days	0.3%	0.2%
>60 days <=90 days	0.1%	0.2%
>90 days	Nil	Nil

- b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, interest is not being paid on overdue amounts. Note that LCAL is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* company.
- c. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	145
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Legal costs		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What sum did the LCAL spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b. What sum did the LCAL spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c. What sum did the LCAL spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d. What sum did the LCAL spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

- a. \$109,469 was spent on salaries, superannuation and workcover costs associated with employment of in-house legal staff.
- b. \$Nil and therefore not applicable.
- c. \$275,379.
 - Contractual advice on and negotiation of property lease agreement: \$7,873
 - Regulatory issues surrounding Low Carbon Australia Limited's (LCAL) charitable purpose, energy efficiency funding model and the collection of data: \$61,954
 - Establishment of LCAL's Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Compliance Program and Privacy procedures in accordance with the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* and *Privacy Act 1988*: \$41,055
 - Preparation of various loan documents for funds being loaned under LCAL's energy efficiency program: \$144,758
 - Trademark and intellectual property advice particularly in relation to sub-licensing the Department of Climate Change

and Energy Efficiency's National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) Trade Mark in LCAL's capacity as administrator of the NCOS program: \$13,444

- General contractual advice including funding deed, confidentiality deed and deeds of access and indemnity: \$6,295

d. \$Nil and therefore not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	146
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Executive Coaching and Leadership Training		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by the LCAL, please provide the following information FYTD:

- a. Total spending on these services
- b. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
- c. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification
- d. The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider, please provide:

- i. The name and nature of the service purchased
- ii. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- iii. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- iv. The total number of hours involved for all employees
- v. The total amount spent on the service
- vi. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Where a service was provided at any location other than the LCAL's premises, please provide:

1. The location used
2. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
3. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part
4. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by Low Carbon Australia Limited:

- a. \$Nil.
- b. Nil.
- c. Nil.
- d. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	147
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Paid parental leave		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Is the LCAL providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme. Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited is registered as an employer under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme and provides its employees with access to payments in accordance with legislation. As the criteria for eligibility is based on an assessment of the employee's personal circumstances at the time of claim it would not be possible to determine future claims.

No staff are currently in receipt of these payments.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	148
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Workpoint space		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. For the LCAL please list the occupied workpoint space allocated per person.
- b. Does this adhere to the Government's Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines (the Guidelines)? Explain.
 - I. If yes, please explain if any refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines and what the costs were.
 1. What savings did the LCAL achieve by meeting the Guidelines?
 2. How much of these savings has the LCAL kept?
 - II. If no, please give details why it does not, including whether an exemption has been received by the Finance Minister.
 1. What funding has been taken from the LCAL because they do not meet the Guidelines?
 2. Are there plans to meet the Guidelines? Please explain.

Answer:

- a. Low Carbon Australia Limited's (LCAL) workspace is designed to provide approximately 4.5 square metres of space for each occupied workstation (excluding ancillary space such as meeting rooms, breakout areas, circulation and vacant space).
- b. Exemptions have not been received from the Minister for Finance and Deregulation. LCAL is subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and accordingly is not subject to the Australian Government's *Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines* (the Guidelines).

Furthermore, occupational density targets under the Guidelines only apply to new leases or buildings and major fit-outs that are more than 500 square metres of usable office area and LCAL has less than 500 square metres of usable office area. There are no plans to meet the Guidelines as the Guidelines do not apply to LCAL.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	149
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Staffing		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. How many permanent staff have been recruited this FYTD?
- b. What classification are these staff?
- c. How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FYTD?
- d. This FYTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

- a. 11.
- b. Low Carbon Australia Limited is not an Australian Public Service (APS) agency under the *Public Service Act 1999* and does not use Australian Government APS classifications. There were no executive-level appointments and 11 non-executive level appointments.
- c. Nil.
- d. One for a fixed term contract period of five months.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	150
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what classification?
- b. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- c. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

- a. No.
- b. No.
- c. There are no changes underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs.

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 151
Program: LCAL
Division/Agency: LCAL
Topic: Hospitality and entertainment
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What is the LCAL's hospitality spend FYTD?
- b. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- c. Please detail any catering costs, listing the cost of food and beverages, and include a separate list of alcohol costs.
- d. What is the LCAL's entertainment spend FYTD?
- e. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answer:

a. \$43,682.

b-c.

Date	Location	Purpose	Total Cost	Catering cost – food and beverage	Catering cost – alcohol
27/7/2010	Brisbane	Industry stakeholder event	\$15,600	\$2,500	\$730
30/9/2010	Adelaide	Industry stakeholder event	\$6,071	\$2,273	\$480
13/10/2010	Melbourne	Industry stakeholder event	\$8,636	\$4,800	\$3,100
26/11/2010	Parliament House, Canberra	Public announcement of initial investments	\$455	\$Nil	\$Nil
24/2/2011	Sydney	Industry stakeholder event	\$8,257	\$2,836	\$1,586
23/5/2011	Perth	Industry stakeholder event	\$7,303	\$4,373	\$1,199

d. \$5,901.

e.

Date	Location	Purpose	Total Cost
12-20/7/2010	Washington DC	Meetings with various international representatives on climate change and energy efficiency	\$118
20/7/2010	Canberra	Meeting with industry stakeholders	\$224
21/7/2010	Melbourne	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$36
27/7/2010	Brisbane	Dinner with various industry stakeholders following launch in Brisbane	\$530
27/7/2010	Brisbane	Board member dinner with executives of Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) launch in Brisbane	\$436
10/8/2010	Sydney	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$78
12/8/2010	Sydney	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$44
17/8/2010	Victoria	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$25
29/8/2010	Brisbane	Meeting with South Australian ministers	\$256
16/9/2010	Brisbane	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$74
9/11/2010	Sydney	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$53
12/11/2010	Brisbane	Meeting with prospective board member	\$133
29/11/2010	Canberra	Board member lunch with executives of LCAL	\$219
17/12/2010	Brisbane	All staff end of year function	\$1,023
4/2/2011	Sydney	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$64
24/2/2011	Sydney	Dinner following Sydney stakeholder reception	\$189
24/2/2011	Brisbane	Dinner with officials	\$106
28/2/2011	Brisbane	Coffee with stakeholder	\$4
15/3/2011	Wagga	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$62
16/3/2011	Brisbane	Lunch with stakeholder	\$40
31/3/2011	Brisbane	Event to recognise first year anniversary of LCAL	\$703
31/3/2011	Brisbane	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$72
14/4/2011	Sydney	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$119
30/4/2011	Sydney	Industry stakeholder meeting	\$46
11/5/2011	Sydney	Host luncheon for key stakeholders	\$1,247

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	152
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Education expenses		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Please detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for the LCAL. Include what type of course, the cost and how many participants.

Answer:

\$Nil (2010-11 financial year).

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	153
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Advertising		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What communications programs has LCAL undertaken, or is planning to undertake FYTD?
- b. For each program, what is the total spend?

Answer:

- a. Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) is a company under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, and as such the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (including the Australian Government's *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*) does not apply. Notwithstanding this, in the 2010-11 financial year, LCAL did not undertake any communications campaigns that would fall within our understanding of the definition of advertising campaigns as defined in the Guidelines.
- b. Please refer to the response to part (a).

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	189
Program:	LCAL		
Division/Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Media monitoring		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to LCAL FYTD?
- b. Which agency or agencies provided these services?

Answer:

- a. \$4,068.
- b. CCH Australia Ltd.