

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

Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD

Question No: 153

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Please list how many staff in each portfolio department or any agency within the portfolio are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
2. Please list which portfolio department and agencies are providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

1. The department and portfolio agencies are not able to respond to this question as responsibility for determining eligibility for the Paid Parental Leave scheme is the responsibility of the Family Assistance Office (Centrelink).
2. The department is providing payments to one employee. No portfolio agencies are providing payments.

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Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD **Question No:** 154

Topic: Staffing – Efficiency Dividend
and
Budget Cuts

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

For both the department and agencies:

1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what classification?
2. 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.
3. 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:

1.

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	The Department does not manage its budget in a way that would allow a direct link between staffing levels and the efficiency dividend. Any impact is indirect. After allowing for the impact of Machinery of Government changes and new policy initiatives there is estimated to be a small increase in departmental ASL in the 2011 - 2012 year.
Bureau of Meteorology	No
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	No
Murray Darling Basin Authority	No
National Water Commission	No

2.

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	No
Bureau of Meteorology	At this stage there are no plans for staff reductions. Over the reporting period (1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011), restructuring within the Bureau has resulted in some

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	voluntary redundancies being offered and accepted. Both the Observations Reconfiguration project and the Centralisation of Corporate support functions project have each resulted in one voluntary redundancy, while the Regional Climate Service Centres restructuring exercise has also resulted in one voluntary redundancy being accepted.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	The Portfolio budget statement shows a reduction in staffing levels from 220 to 215 staff. This is a result of programs terminating.
Murray Darling Basin Authority	No
National Water Commission	No

3.

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	Graduate intake numbers for the department are planned to rise from 29 in 2011 to 45 in 2012. Indigenous cadet numbers and school leaver trainee numbers will remain steady in 2012.
Bureau of Meteorology	The Bureau's graduate recruitment is limited to the recruitment of graduates for the Diploma in Meteorology. The numbers recruited vary from year to year for reasons including the number of separations and technological advances.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	There are no specific plans to conduct another graduate program in the near future.
Murray Darling Basin Authority	None
National Water Commission	The Commission has no plans for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs.

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD

Question No: 155

Topic: Staffing numbers

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

For both the department and agencies:

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

Answer:

1. The number of permanent (ongoing) staff recruited this FYTD:

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	286
Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)	132
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)	15
Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)	37
National Water Commission (NWC)	11

- 2.

Classification Level	Department	BOM	GBRMPA	MDBA	NWC
Cadet	1	3			
Graduate	26	24			
APS 1/2	10	23	4		
APS 3	7	3	2	9	
APS 4	18	10	2		1
APS 5	37	6	2	5	1
APS 6	69	19	1	9	1
Executive Level 1	78	29	3	10	4
Executive Level 2	33	14	1	4	4
SES Band 1	4	1			
SES Band 2	1				
SES Band 3	2				
Total	286	132	15	37	11

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3. The response to this question provides (a) the total number of temporary (non-ongoing) employees currently engaged by the department/agency and (b) the number engaged this FYTD. These employees occupy ongoing positions. Specific temporary (non-ongoing) positions are not created.

	(a)	(b)
Department	569	489
BOM	293	166
GBRMPA	56	25
MDBA	52	46
NWC	20	29

4. The response to this question provides (a) the total number of employees who have been employed on contract (non-ongoing employees) this FYTD and (b) the average length of their employment period (in weeks).

	(a)	(b)
Department	489	29
BOM	166	57
GBRMPA	25	40
MDBA	46	27
NWC	29	36

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 156

Topic: Travel Costs

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include what sum was spent on travel, accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
2. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
3. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.

Answer:

Domestic travel costs for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Information about destinations and the cost of travel undertaken is tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The report also includes car transport costs as advised by other departments in respect of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Department of Finance and Deregulation's website. With respect to international travel, the answers are as follows:

1. Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water travelled to Brunei Darussalam to attend the 2nd East Asia Summit Environment Ministers' Meeting, 14-16 October 2010 (inclusive of travel). The final statement of expenses (as at 8 June 2011) issued by the Department of Finance and Deregulation states that the costs incurred were:

Travel:	\$3426.94
Accommodation:	\$259.71
Allowances (including meal and incidental):	<u>\$126.00</u>
Total Amount Paid:	\$3812.65

2. No Parliamentary staff attended the 2nd East Asia Summit Environment Ministers' Meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary

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3. Two departmental officers attended the 2nd East Asia Summit Environment Ministers' Meeting and the 4th Senior Officials' Meeting that preceded it from 12-16 October 2010 (inclusive of travel). The following costs were incurred:

Travel:	\$7325.14
Accommodation:	\$1058.18
Meal Expenses:	\$58.09
Incidentals:	\$151.80
Other Expenses:	<u>\$136.81</u>
Total Amount Paid:	\$8730.02

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD

Question No: 157

Topic: Workpoint Space

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

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

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Answers:

1. For each portfolio department and agency office please list the occupied workpoint space allocated per person.

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water Population and Communities
(as per last occupancy survey, 31 March 2011)

Street number/ building name	Street name	Suburb	State/Territory	Sqr Mtrs /Person
John Gorton Building	King Edward Terrace	Parks	ACT	15.99
33	Allara Street	City	ACT	20.86
13	Keltie Street	Woden	ACT	17.46
Cnr	Pederson Rd & Fenton Court	Marrara	NT	12.05
203/Mawson	Channel Highway	Kingston	TAS	22.87
203/Wild	Channel Highway	Kingston	TAS	28.32
203/Harrisson	Channel Highway	Kingston	TAS	31.04
203/Edgar Waite	Channel Highway	Kingston	TAS	20.97
Level 15, 37	St George's Terrace	Perth	WA	22.55

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau has 73 staffed facilities located on mainland Australia and its territories. The majority of these premises are operational in nature, have a small office space attached and are exempt from the property data collection (Prodac) exercise under the Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines. A breakdown of these sites is: 54 operational field offices; 6 maintenance centres; a central store and the Baseline Air Pollution Station at Cape Grim in Tasmania, with administrative support located at Smithton.

The remaining premises are subject to the Prodac exercise under the Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines. The details of the latest survey undertaken in March 2011 are provided in the table below:

Street number	Street name	Suburb	State/Territory	Space per person(m2)
14	Childers Street	Canberra	ACT	20.97
300	Elizabeth Street	Sydney	NSW	26.5
13	Scaturchio Street	Casuarina	NT	26.12
69	Ann Street	Brisbane	QLD	19.94
25	College Road	Kent Town	SA	31.40
111	Macquarie Street	Hobart	TAS	29.67
700	Collins Street	Docklands	VIC	17.85
1010	Latrobe Street	Docklands	VIC	23.60
Training Annex	Glenlitta Avenue	Broadmeadows	VIC	52.41
1100	Hay Street	Perth	WA	28.52

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<u>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)</u>	18.5 sqr metres per person
<u>Murray Darling Basin Authority</u>	14.18 sqr mtrs per person
<u>National Water Commission</u>	16 sqr mtrs per person
<u>Sydney Harbour Federation Trust</u>	15.6 sqr mtrs per person
<u>Parks Australia</u>	Parks Australia staff housed within DSEWPAC premises are incorporated within the DSEWPAC figures above. As other Parks premises are not included in the PRODAC reporting activity, density data for these offices is not available.

2. Does this adhere to the Government's Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines (the Guidelines)? Explain.

DSEWPAC

At the commencement of the Guidelines on 30 September 2009 the John Gorton Building (JGB) tenancy did not comply as it exceeded the 16 square metres per person ceiling. However, according to the most recent survey undertaken at 31 March 2011, the JGB now complies, with the reduction due mainly to better space utilisation as opposed to targeted refurbishment. All other DSEWPAC leases either pre-date implementation of the Guidelines on 30 September 2009 and are yet to expire or are less than 500 sqr mtrs and so the density targets do not apply at this time.

Bureau of Meteorology

The 10 buildings listed do not adhere to the Guidelines. The Bureau has been located at the majority of these sites in excess of ten years and leases are yet to expire, hence the density target does not apply at this time.

GBRMPA

The GBRMPA lease predates implementation of the Guidelines on 30 September 2009 and are yet to expire, hence the density target does not apply at this time.

Murray Darling Basin Authority

Yes

National Water Commission

Yes

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is an agency under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 and therefore the guidelines do not apply.

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Parks Australia

Parks Australia is an agency under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 and therefore the guidelines do not apply.

a. If yes, please explain if any refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines and what the costs were.

<u>DSEWPaC</u>	No refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines.
<u>Bureau of Meteorology</u>	No refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines.
<u>GBRMPA</u>	No refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines.
<u>Murray Darling Basin Authority</u>	No refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines.
<u>National Water Commission</u>	No refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines.
<u>Sydney Harbour Federation Trust</u>	N/A
<u>Parks Australia</u>	N/A

b. What savings did each portfolio department and agency achieve by meeting the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.

<u>DSEWPaC</u>	N/A
<u>Bureau of Meteorology</u>	N/A
<u>GBRMPA</u>	N/A
<u>Murray Darling Basin Authority</u>	N/A
<u>National Water Commission</u>	N/A
<u>Sydney Harbour Federation Trust</u>	N/A
<u>Parks Australia</u>	N/A

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- c. How much of these savings has each portfolio department and agency kept?
Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.**

<u>DSEWPaC</u>	N/A
<u>Bureau of Meteorology</u>	N/A
<u>GBRMPA</u>	N/A
<u>Murray Darling Basin Authority</u>	N/A
<u>National Water Commission</u>	N/A
<u>Sydney Harbour Federation Trust</u>	N/A
<u>Parks Australia</u>	N/A

- d. If no, please give details why it does not, including whether an exemption has been received by the Finance Minister.**

<u>DSEWPaC</u>	N/A
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Bureau of Meteorology

Not applicable for the majority of Bureau offices. The Bureau Field Training Annex however is a purpose built facility that comprises mainly class and student rooms which makes it difficult to achieve the PRODAC targets. The Bureau submitted a business case for exemption on this site but was unsuccessful.

<u>GBRMPA</u>	Space relates to current leases which are in place until July 2012
<u>Murray Darling Basin Authority</u>	N/A
<u>National Water Commission</u>	N/A
<u>Sydney Harbour Federation Trust</u>	N/A
<u>Parks Australia</u>	N/A

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- e. **What funding has been taken from each portfolio department and agency because they do not meet the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.**

Information that follows is for the 2010/11 financial year:

DSEWPaC FY 2010/11: \$83,187

This amount is attributable to the non-compliance of the John Gorton Building tenancy at the commencement of the Guidelines on 30 September 2009 and in accordance with the Guidelines, was applied in 2010-11 to coincide with the expiration of the lease on 31 January 2011 (lease currently maintained on a month by month basis).

Bureau of Meteorology FY 2010/11: \$48,610

GBRMPA FY 2010/11: \$0

Murray Darling Basin Authority FY 2010/11: \$0

National Water Commission FY 2010/11: \$0

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust N/A

Parks Australia N/A

- f. **Are there plans to meet the Guidelines? Please explain.**

DSEWPaC Yes. DSEWPaC plans to meet the Guideline's targets with any new fit-outs where this is cost effective and practical.

Bureau of Meteorology Yes. The Bureau will be reviewing operations at all of its 'Prodac' sites with a view to implementing cost effective measures where possible as leases expire.

GBRMPA Yes. GBRMPA is planning to review and amend office accommodation arrangements on expiry of current leases.

Murray Darling Basin Authority N/A

National Water Commission N/A

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust N/A

Parks Australia N/A

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: IMD

Question No: 158

Topic: Social Media

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

For both the department and agencies:

Has there been any changes to department and agency 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:

No.

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 159

Topic: Late questions on notice

Proof Hansard Page and Date 5 and 7 (24/5/11)
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

(page 5)

Senator FISHER: Can you explain why we got 52 yesterday?

Senator Conroy: We will seek to get some further information from the minister's office for you.

Senator FISHER: Oh, goodness! On 12 May, Minister, you told me:

"... responses to these questions are under consideration and are being carefully checked to ensure the information provided is accurate and addresses that matters raised."

Were our questions so probing? So complex—

Senator Conroy: Look, that is a matter of opinion. But, if there is any further information I can add to my answer I have given you already, I will supply it to you.

...

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Senator FISHER: Okay. If on notice you could confirm that number—approximately a dozen out of 79. When did the department then return those approximately a dozen to the minister's office?

Dr Grimes: I would have to take very precise details like that on notice and come back to you later today with a response.

Senator FISHER: Okay. Thank you. Of the still outstanding 27, are the answers to all of those with the ministers office?

Dr Grimes: In my response previously I indicated that draft questions on notice were provided prior to 8 April, with the exception of a question that required consultation with another government.

Answer:

Responses to 19 questions on notice asked of the department, and 12 asked of portfolio agencies, were revised following their initial submission to the Minister's office. The updated responses to these questions on notice were provided to the Minister's Office iteratively in April as each question was finalised

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 160

Topic: Budget outcomes and portfolio structure

Proof Hansard Page and Date 73(24/5/11)
or Written Question:

Senator Cameron asked:

CHAIR: ... Dr Grimes, you may have noticed we are trying to get a new process here to try to get departmental divisions and outcomes into an area where we can question and you have some consistency about when you are on and when you finish. This is not something that is unique to this committee. Other committees like the finance committee, where you have been on in the past, have to get some help from the department to try to identify the correct areas for questions. I know Treasury did a sort of mud map—not an econometric model but a mud map—to say, 'This is the area for this outcome.' Is it possible for you to do that for the next estimates? It would be really helpful, I think, for all senators. Senator Siewert has come in and she was expecting a range of issues on 1.1, and so was I, and she has gone because it is 1.2. Is that a possibility?

Dr Grimes: We would be delighted to assist the committee with that and provide further information. I think it works better for all if there is a clear structure and everyone understands where the various programs fit. We would be very happy to do that for the committee before the next estimates hearing.

CHAIR: That would be great.

Answer:

Departmental programs and divisions are listed below under relevant Outcomes as outlined in the 2011-12 Portfolio Budget Statements. This information is also attached in table form.

Outcome 1: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The conservation and protection of Australia's terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems through supporting research, developing information, supporting natural resource management, and establishing and managing Commonwealth protected areas.

Programs:

- 1.1 Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment
- 1.2 Environmental Information and Research

Divisions:

- Land and Coasts Division
- Marine Division
- Parks Australia Division

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Outcome 2: Sustainable Population and Communities

Improved sustainability of Australia's population, communities and environment through coordination and development of sustainable population and communities policies; supporting affordable housing; and the reduction and regulation of waste, pollutants and hazardous substances.

Programs:

- 2.1 Management of Hazardous Wastes
- 2.2 Affordable Housing
- 2.3 Sustainable Communities

Divisions:

Environment Quality Division
Housing, Communities and Population Division

Outcome 3: Antarctica

Advancement of Australia's strategic, scientific, environmental and economic interests in the Antarctic by protecting, administering and researching the region.

Program:

- 3.1 Antarctica: Science, Policy and Presence

Divisions:

Australian Antarctic Division

Outcome 4: Sustainable Water

Adaptation to climate change, wise water use, secure water supplies and improved health of rivers, waterways and freshwater ecosystems by supporting research, and reforming the management and use of water resources.

Program:

- 4.1 Water Reform

Divisions:

Water Efficiency Division
Water Reform Division
Water Governance Division

Outcome 5: Environment Protection and Heritage Conservation

Increased protection, awareness and appreciation of Australia's environment and heritage through regulating matters of national environmental significance and the identification, conservation and celebration of natural, indigenous and historic places of national and World Heritage significance.

Programs:

- 5.1 Conservation of Australia's heritage and Environment
- 5.2 Environment Regulation

Divisions:

Approvals and Wildlife Division
Heritage Division
Supervising Scientist Division

Outcome	Outcome Statement	Programs/Subjects	Divisions
Outcome 1: Biodiversity and Ecosystems	<i>The conservation and protection of Australia's terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems through supporting research, developing information, supporting natural resource management, and establishing and managing Commonwealth protected areas</i>	<p>1.1 Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caring for our Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reef Rescue - National Wildlife Corridors Plan - Working on Country - Environmental Stewardship Program - Tasmanian Forests - Parks Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Reserve System - National Parks – Booderee, Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta <p>1.2 Environmental Information and Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Whales Science Initiative - Regional Marine Planning - Australian Biological Resources Study <p><i>The following programs/subjects are resourced under this Outcome but will be discussed under Outcome 6</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Environmental Research program - National Environmental Information Plan 	<p>Land and Coasts Division</p> <p>Parks Australia Division</p> <p>Marine Division</p>
Outcome 2: Sustainable Population and Communities	<i>Improved sustainability of Australia's population, communities and environment through coordination and development of sustainable population and communities policies; supporting affordable housing; and the reduction and regulation of waste, pollutants and hazardous substances</i>	<p>2.1 Management of hazardous Wastes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Waste Policy, including product stewardship legislation and schemes - Ozone & Synthetic Greenhouse Gases - Bio-fuels & fuel quality standards <p>2.2 Affordable Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Rental Assistance Scheme - Housing Affordability Fund - Building Better Regional Cities <p>2.3 Sustainable Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suburban Jobs - Sustainable Population Strategy <p><i>The following program is resourced under this Outcome but will be discussed under Outcome 6</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainability Indicators 	<p>Housing, Communities and Population Division</p> <p>Environment Quality Division</p>

Outcome 3: Antarctica	<i>Advancement of Australia's strategic, scientific, environmental and economic interests in the Antarctic by protecting, administering and researching the region</i>	3.1 Antarctica: Science, Policy and Presence	Australian Antarctic Division
Outcome 4: Sustainable Water	<i>Adaption to climate change, wise water use, secure water supplies and improved health of rivers, waterways and freshwater ecosystems by supporting research, and reforming the management and use of water resources</i>	4.1 Water Reform - National Sustainable Rural Water Use & Infrastructure - Restoring the Balance in the Basin - Water Smart Australia - National Urban Water and Desalination Plan - National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns - Murray Environmental Flows	Water Efficiency Division Water Reform Division Water Governance Division
Outcome 5: Environment Protection and Heritage Conservation	<i>Increased protection, awareness and appreciation of Australia's environment and heritage through regulating matters of national environmental significance and the identification, conservation and celebration of natural, indigenous and historic places of national and World Heritage significance</i>	5.1 Conservation of Australia's <i>heritage</i> and Environment - Heritage grants programs - Assessments and listings of Commonwealth, National World Heritage places - Protection of the Kokoda Track 5.2 Environment Regulation - Supervising Scientist (protection of the Alligator Rivers Region from uranium mining) - EPBC Referrals and Assessments (including strategic assessments, mining, world heritage, Endangered Species and marine matters) - Regulation of international trade in Endangered Species and import of live animals	Approvals and Wildlife Division Heritage Division Supervising Scientist Division

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 161

Topic: GVEHO criteria

Proof Hansard Page and Date 5-6 and 7 (25/5/11)
or Written Question:

Senator Cash asked:

(page 5)

Senator CASH: My question is in relation to an organisation that put on the top of a website a banner which read, 'Not happy Ted! Where's your plan?' I can show it to you—

Dr Grimes: I understand the question that you are asking—

...

Senator Conroy: Community activity and political advocacy can be a fine line.

Senator CASH: It can be a very fine line. However the guidelines are quite specific in relation to that. There is a specific section that refers to ineligibility as opposed to eligibility. So clearly when the government were drafting these guidelines they had a very clear idea about the types of organisations, or the activities the organisations engage in, that they would consider inappropriate to receive funding. One of those is when an organisation's primary purpose is political advocacy.

Dr Grimes: I think the very specific question that you have asked we will have to take on notice.

Senator CASH: How could you possibly have to take on notice—

...

Dr Grimes: If I can just complete my answer, it is a long established program and it does fund a large number of organisations. It would not be surprising to find that organisations that are funded have a diversity of views. You have asked us a very specific question about eligibility, presumably of a particular organisation under the grants.

...

Senator CASH: Would you consider the putting out of a press release criticising the Baillieu government's climate change agenda as political activity? Is that something that the government or the department would define as political activity?

Senator Conroy: We would have to see it.

Senator CASH: Minister, is that something that the government would define as political activity?

Senator Conroy: I would not want to suggest that you would be putting words into my mouth on the words of the website—

Senator CASH: No, that is why I am asking the question.

Senator Conroy: so I probably need to take it away and considerate it. I think Dr Grimes has offered to take this issue on notice for you, and I am sure we can come back to you with some further information.

Senator CASH: Minister, would it be of concern to your department or to you if the department was paying for the staff, stationery, computer equipment and travel of organisations that engaged in this sort of political activity—given that it is contrary to the guidelines?

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

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Senator Conroy: That is your assertion, but we have said that we will take it on notice. We expect everyone to comply with guidelines that are set out under the Commonwealth. But we will happily take it on notice, as Dr Grimes has offered to you....

(page 7)

Senator CASH: If I could now go to the so-called Friends of the Earth website, they received a grant from the department for \$10,000. They are now running on their website the banner 'The People's Blockade. Tara, Queensland. Lock the Gate.' So is the government satisfied that its \$10,000 is being well spent, given the ineligibility criteria surrounding these grants?

Senator Conroy: We will happily take that on notice and consider the information that you have provided, Senator Cash.

Answer:

The Guideline for the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations state both eligibility criteria and ineligibility criteria. These criteria have essentially been maintained since the program's inception in 1973-74.

An organisation is only deemed ineligible if its primary purpose is political advocacy. The guidelines do not preclude organisations from undertaking advocacy activities.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 162

Topic: Compliance with GVEHO
guidelines

Proof Hansard Page and Date 6 (25/5/11)
or Written Question:

Senator Cash asked:

Senator CASH: In the event that they do not comply, what are the sanctions?

Senator Conroy: Now you are asking a hypothetical.

Senator CASH: No, I am not. That is not a hypothetical question. In the event that an organisation does not comply with government guidelines, are there sanctions that are able to be applied?

Senator CONROY: They give the money back.

Dr Grimes: That would be a question of whether there are any sanctions applied under the guidelines. I am not sure—

Senator Conroy: We can take that on notice.

...

Senator CASH: Minister, I will ask you then. If an organisation receives money from your government, are there sanctions that can be applied in the event that it is later found out that the organisation was actually ineligible?

Senator Conroy: As you know, I am representing the minister, so I am not familiar with all of the guidelines. But we have said that we will take it on notice and come back to you.

Answer:

There are no specific sanctions in place within the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) guidelines. However, if an organisation that received money from the GVEHO program was subsequently found not to comply with the GVEHO Guidelines, then the matter could be treated in a variety of ways dependent on the reasons for non-compliance with the Guidelines. For example, if the department became aware that an organisation had provided misleading information regarding the eligibility criteria this matter would be investigated and depending on the circumstances may result in a fraud investigation.

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 163

Topic: GVEHO review

Proof Hansard Page and Date 8 (25/5/11)

or Written Question:

Senator Cash asked:

Ms Parry: The review commenced earlier in 2010 and it was just part of a continuous improvement effort.

Senator CASH: Was the review commenced when Minister Garrett was in charge of this department or when Mr Burke was in charge of this department?

Ms Parry: I would have to take that on notice, just to confirm dates.

Senator CASH: Okay. When did Minister Burke become responsible for this department?

Dr Grimes: September last year.

Senator CASH: Sorry, when did you say the review commenced? When were you are instructed to commence the review?

Ms Parry: It was not an instruction. It is just something where we were looking at the program. As I say, it is an internal review. But I would need to go back and confirm dates and answers to when that began.

Senator CASH: What was approximately the month—did you say it was October 2010?

Ms Parry: I did not. I said that it was in 2010.

...

Ms Parry: As I say, it is not a formal review in terms of having terms of reference. It is more just reviewing the eligibility criteria and making sure that it is reflective of the breadth of the portfolio.

Senator CASH: Have any concerns been raised with you internally or externally about the eligibility criteria?

Ms Parry: Not to my knowledge.

Senator CASH: Have any concerns being raised with you regarding organisations whose principal purpose and/or activity is political advocacy actually receiving grants from this government under this particular program?

Ms Parry: I would have to take that on notice. If you are looking for any specific correspondence or e-mails that have been sent to us raising that concern, then to my knowledge, no. But I would need to take that on notice if you would like us to go back and look at something specific.

Senator CASH: Thank you very much. ...

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Answer:

As advised in the Committee hearing, a formal review with specific terms of reference has not been undertaken. However, the Guidelines have been subject to consultation with the National Environment Roundtable and internal assessment. Following this process, the Guidelines have been updated to reflect the expansion of the portfolio's responsibility for sustainability.

No concerns have been raised with the department regarding the eligibility criteria contained in the previous Guidelines and none to date have been raised since the new Guidelines have been released.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 164

Topic: Late questions on notice -
heritage

Proof Hansard Page and Date 18 (25/5/11)
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ: Can I be given an explanation as to why answers to questions Nos 71 and 72 were delivered only the other day?

Senator Conroy: We have had an extensive conversation about that already, Senator Abetz. I am happy to seek further information from Minister Burke's office and come back to you if there is any further information.

Senator ABETZ: Thank you very much for that, Minister. In particular, question No. 72 has a bit of a give-away in it where it says: 'It is anticipated the baiting program will recommence in May 2011'. We were about three-quarters the way through May when I got the answer. One presumes that the answer was prepared in anticipation of us reaching the month of May. I am wondering where the delay was in relation to these two questions. It seems not in the departmental work because it talks about 'recommencing in May', rather than saying 'recommencing this month' or 'it has already recommenced'. So there is a bit of a give-away in that answer. If we could have a detailed response as to when the draft questions hit the minister's office, I would be much obliged. If you could take that on notice for answers Nos 71 and 72.

Senator Conroy: I can happily take that on notice for you, Senator Abetz.

Answer:

Draft responses to questions on notice 71 and 72 were submitted to the Minister's office on 23 March 2011.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 165

Topic: Board Appointments

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
2. Please detail any board appointments for the FYTD.

Response:

1. The gender ratio on each board (where members are appointed by the Government) is provided at Attachment A. The gender ratio on boards across the portfolio is 78 women: 165 men.
2. Details of board appointments FYTD are provided at Attachment A.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 166

Topic: Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet
Committee Meetings

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. How much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings?
2. How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings be redrafted or resubmitted? Please provide examples of why this would happen. (ie. last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled).

Answer:

1. The department does not collect data on the time spent preparing Cabinet papers, submissions and memoranda. The amount of time spent drafting Cabinet documents varies from item-to-item according to the complexity of the matters.
2. The department does not collect the data on the frequency of redrafting. As a normal part of the development process, Cabinet documents are redrafted for a number of reasons including updating information or taking account of comments received from other agencies.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 167

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. How many reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio FYTD? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
2. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

A total of eight reports have been commissioned since Budget Estimates, May 2010. The portfolio commissioned seven reports. The Sustainable Population Strategy Advisory Panel Reports were commissioned by the then Minister for Population. Responsibility for Sustainable Population was transferred from The Treasury to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) in November 2010.

Basin Case Studies: The Socio-Economic Impacts of Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDLs) and Water for the Future Investments: An Assessment at a Local Scale

- Date commissioned: 8 February 2011
- Date report handed to Government: N/A
- Date of public release: N/A
- Committee members N/A
- Approximate cost: \$103,485 (inclusive of GST)
- Current status: Ongoing with an expectation of completion mid-year.
- Terms of reference: Conduct a best-practice empirical analysis of the potential net impacts of the Basin Plan for five case study communities. The analysis will need to consider both the SDLs proposed in the Basin Plan and Australian Government expenditure through the Water for the Future program. It also needs to incorporate broader economic and social factors that currently, and will continue to, impact on communities in the Basin.

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Assessment of impacts of the proposed coal seam gas operations on surface and groundwater systems in the Murray-Darling Basin

- Date commissioned: 11 October 2010
- Date report handed to Government: 3 December 2010
- Date of public release: 10 Dec 2010
- Committee members: There was no oversight committee for this study. A Joint Liaison Committee with members from the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management and DSEWPaC was established to provide technical information only.
- Approximate cost: \$198,000 GST inclusive
- Current status: Completed
- Terms of reference: Assessment of the impacts of the proposed coal seam gas operations on the connectivity of groundwater systems, surface water and groundwater flows and water quality in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Progress towards the national target of 30% of Australia's wastewater being recycled

- Date commissioned: 13 April 2011
- Date report handed to Government: due for completion 2011
- Date of public release: due 2011
- Committee members: N/A
- Approximate cost: \$65,000 GST inclusive
- Current status: underway
- Terms of Reference: To assess the progress toward the 30 per cent recycled water target both nationally and by State and Territory, with projected modelling up to 2015.

Great Artesian Basin Water Resource Assessment

- Date commissioned: 1 July 2010
- Date report handed to Government: due for completion 15 December 2012
- Date of public release: To be determined
- Committee members: Steering Committee comprises 5 external members (NSW Office of Water, SA Department for Water, QLD Department of Environment and Resource Management, QLD Water Commission, NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport), 2 internal (DSEWPaC and the National Water Commission)
- Approximate cost: \$6,250,000 GST exclusive
- Current status: Ongoing
- Terms of reference: CSIRO and Geoscience Australia have been contracted to provide a number of reports (culminating in a final report by 15 December 2012), with outputs including a reconceptualisation of the hydrology of the Basin, and the modelling of the impact of development and climate change scenarios on the Basin's water resources.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Review of impacts of North Nowra Road Link on population genetics of Zieria

- Date commissioned: February 2010
- Date report handed to Government: May 2010
- Date of public release: N/A
- Committee members: nil
- Approximate cost: \$9,000 GST inclusive
- Current status: complete
- Terms of reference: A report identifying the impact of the proposed North Nowra Road Link on the population genetics of the endangered Zieria (listed as endangered under national environmental law).

Review of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment for the Ichthys Gas Field Development Project.

- Date commissioned: 9 September 2010
- Date report handed to Government: 1 November 2010
- Date of public release: N/A
- Committee members: N/A
- Approximate cost: \$12,100 inclusive of GST
- Current status: The report has been provided to the proponent for consideration in their final documentation.
- Terms of Reference: A scope of services was detailed in the project contract, following is a brief summary.
 - Review and report on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (Draft EIS), and Appendices, for the Ichthys Gas Field Development Project, Blaydin Point (EPBC 2008/4208), as submitted for approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Ecological Assessment of Murrumbidgee to Googong Transfer, Public Environment Review (PER).

- Date commissioned: 4 August 2010
- Date report handed to Government: 6 September 2010
- Date of public release: N/A
- Committee members: N/A
- Approximate cost: \$6,072.50 inclusive of GST
- Current status: The report was used in the determination of the Murrumbidgee to Googong Transfer Proposal (EPBC 2009/5124). The report is to be used by the Department in considering the required Sustainable Divergence Limit Plan.

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- Terms of Reference: A scope of services was detailed in the project contract, following is a brief summary.
- Review and report on the Public Environment Review (PER), and other assessment documentation, for the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer project (the project) (EPBC 2009/5124), as submitted for approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), with respect to the following questions:
 - What are the consequences arising from the proposed regime of water extraction for the proposed Murrumbidgee to Googong project (in the long term) for the local populations of EPBC listed fish species (Murray Cod, Trout Cod and Macquarie Perch)? This should focus on:
 - the current water flows in the ACT Murrumbidgee in relation to historic flows;
 - the proportion of water that can be extracted under the proposed scheme;
 - the level of baseflows protected under the proposed scheme;
 - cumulative impacts of existing threats (including other water extractions in the ACT such as the Murrumbidgee Pumping Station); and
 - any other aspect you think is relevant.
 - How can other recent water extraction/ diversion projects outside of the ACT inform the proposed extraction regime?
 - What alternative extraction regimes should be considered to protect the ACT Murrumbidgee and the ACT populations of EPBC listed fish?
 - Is there any other aspect of the water extraction relevant to the risk of adverse consequences to EPBC listed fish species?

Sustainable Population Strategy Advisory Panel Reports

Demographic Change and Liveability, Productivity and Prosperity, and Sustainable Development.

- Date commissioned: 15 July 2010 (commissioned by the Minister for Population within The Treasury portfolio. Responsibilities transferred to SEWPaC in November following changes to the Administrative Arrangement Orders)
- Date report handed to Government: 14 December 2010
- Date of public release: 16 December 2010
- Approximate cost: \$79,000 (including sitting fees, and report publishing and printing costs)
- Current status: Complete, the Government responded to the reports through the release of *Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities: A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia*
- Departmental Staff involved: From November there were approximately 9 staff working in the Sustainable Population Taskforce. In addition to developing the Sustainable Population Strategy Issues Paper the Taskforce also provided secretariat support to the Advisory Panels as required. The Taskforce included 2 SES staff
- Committee members: (below)

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Demographic Change and Liveability Panel

- Professor Graeme Hugo - Professor of Geography and Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Systems at the University of Adelaide (Chair)
- Ms Jane-Frances Kelly - Program Director Cities, Grattan Institute
- Professor Daniela Stehlik - Director, School for Social and Policy Research, Charles Darwin University
- Councillor Pam Parker - Mayor, Logan City Council QLD
- Ms Ruth Spielman - Executive Officer, National Growth Areas Alliance
- Ms Marion Thompson - Urban Planning Consultant and WA Urban Development Coordinator
- Mr Waleed Aly - Academic and Commentator
- Mr John Taylor - Director, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research
- Mr Everald Compton AM - Chairman, National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre, and
- Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer - Lord Mayor of Darwin and Chair Council of Capital City Lord Mayors.

Productivity and Prosperity Panel

- Ms Heather Ridout - Chief Executive of the Australian Industry Group (Chair)
- Councillor Nicole Lockwood- President, Shire of Roebourne
- Paul Howes, National Secretary, Australian Workers' Union
- Alison Watt - Assistant Director Economic Policy Branch, Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance
- Mark Hunter - CEO, Residential at Stockland
- Paul Low - CEO, Growth Management Queensland
- Bernard Salt - Partner, KPMG
- Professor John Piggott - University of New South Wales
- Dr Barry Hughes, and
- David Crombie - President, National Farmers' Federation.

Sustainable Development Panel

- The Hon Bob Carr. Mr Carr (Chair)
- Don Henry / Charles Berger - Australian Conservation Foundation
- Councillor Bob Abbot - Mayor, Sunshine Coast
- Associate Professor Katherine Betts - Swinburne University of Technology
- Bill Forrest - CEO/Regional Director of ICLEI Oceania
- John Sutton - National Secretary, Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, and
- Dr Susan Close, Executive Director, Strategy, South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Terms of reference

The three advisory panels were appointed to advise the Minister on the key issues of relevance to a sustainable population strategy, including:

- the likely trajectory of Australia's population
- the sustainable provision of the social and economic infrastructure needed to support a growing population, including the urban environment, transport, housing and service delivery networks
- the opportunities a growing population will create for economic growth and national development
- the further development and growth of Australia's regional towns and communities
- the future skill and labour force needs of the Australian economy and the role of immigration vis-à-vis education, training and measures to enhance labour force participation, and
- consideration of the environment, water resources and water use, urban amenity and liveability, social policy issues and social inclusion.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 168

Topic: Community Cabinet

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What was the cost of the Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held the FYTD?
2. How many ministerial staff travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?
3. How many departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the department and the Minister's Office?

Answer:

1. As at 13 June 2011, the Department of Finance and Deregulation had paid for travel and expenses for the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to attend Community Cabinet meetings held FYTD:
Redcliff Peninsula (QLD) on 2 December 2010 - \$7,909.92
Fremantle (WA) on 30 March 2011 - \$4,322.88
Adelaide (SA) on 19 May 2011 - \$6,766.64
2. The Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities was accompanied by two ministerial staff to the Redcliff Peninsula and Fremantle Community Cabinet and three ministerial staff to the Adelaide Community Cabinet.
The total cost of this travel was \$14,921.57.
3. One departmental officer from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities attended each of the Redcliff Peninsula, Fremantle and Adelaide Community Cabinet meetings to support the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.
The total cost of this travel was \$7,977.35.
4. The total cost to the Minister's Office and the department for Community Cabinet meetings held FYTD was \$41,898.36.

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Notes:

- 1. The financial information provided in the table includes additional destinations not relevant to the Redcliff Peninsula (Qld) and Adelaide Community Cabinet meetings. Given the nature of the flight booking, the cost of the additional destinations are not able to be disaggregated from the cost of travel to attend Community Cabinet meetings.*
- 2. The above figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance (including Motor Vehicle Allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge), COMCAR (which is charged directly to portfolio agencies), or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence). Fare costs are GST Exclusive.*

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 169

Topic: Freedom of Information requests

**Proof Hansard Page and Date
or Written Question:** Written

Senator Fisher asked:

For both the department and agencies:

1. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the department received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

1. The department has on a number of occasions sought advice from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) on matters relating to the interpretation of various provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). The department also sought advice from Blake Dawson in relation to the department's obligations under the Information Publication Scheme. Delegates, as a matter of course, also often seek advice from staff within the Department's Legal Section.
2. The department has received 30 FOI requests since Additional Estimates.
3. Of the 30 requests that have been received since the Additional Estimates:
 - 2 requests were granted in full;
 - 7 requests were granted in part;
 - 2 requests were refused;
 - 7 requests were withdrawn; and
 - 12 requests are ongoing.
4. Nil.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Bureau of Meteorology

1. No general advice was received on how to respond to FOI requests. The Australian Government Solicitor provided advice on one request.
2. The Bureau of Meteorology has received three requests since Additional Estimates.
3. Two requests were withdrawn and documents were partly exempt in one request.
4. Nil.

National Water Commission

1. Yes. The Australian Government Solicitor has provided general advice on FOI requests.
2. No requests have been received since Additional Estimates.
3. Nil.
4. Nil.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

1. No.
2. One request has been received since Additional Estimates.
3. One request has been granted since Additional Estimates.
4. Nil.

Murray Darling Basin Authority

1. No.
2. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has received three requests since Additional Estimates.
3. Of the three requests received since Additional Estimates, two requests granted partial release of information and the third request is, at 31 May 2011, still under consideration.

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4. Nil.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

1. No.

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

4. Nil.

Director of National Parks

1. No.

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

4. Nil.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 170

Topic: Government Advertising

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

For both the department and agencies:

1. What communications programs has the department or any agency within the portfolio undertaken, or are planning to undertake FYTD?
2. For each program, what is the total spend?

Answer:

1. The department and its agencies develop and implement communication strategies for each of their major communication programs. These include a broad range of communication activities ranging from media and issues management, websites, publications and events to advertising and public relations activities.

Providing specific details for each item of expenditure would involve an extensive manual process and therefore, in the context of existing workloads, an unreasonable diversion of resources. The period of reporting is from 1 July 2010 to 24 May 2011 and more significant departmental expenditure includes:

Communication and promotion	\$535,417.87 (ex. GST)
Advertising	\$684,817.41 (ex. GST)
Statutory advertising (e.g. public notices)	\$193,852.06 (ex. GST)
TOTAL	\$1,414,087.20 (exc. GST)

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Expenditure on communication related activities for the Portfolio agencies is as follows:

Murray–Darling Basin Authority

There are two activities conducted by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority that include communication program components – the *Native Fish Strategy* and *The Living Murray*. Both of these programs receive funding from the Authority’s jurisdictional partners – Queensland, NSW, Victoria, ACT, South Australia and the Australian Government.

The expenditure on advertising and communication related activities for the two programs for the period 1 July to 24 May is **\$191,254.00**.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is undertaking one major communication campaign in 2010-11, as part of the *Improving the Great Barrier Reef Outlook*, Reef Guardian Stewardship Program. The communication activities highlight the threats to the reef and celebrate and reward the efforts of reef guardian fishers, farmers, councils and schools in helping to build the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

GBRMPA also undertakes communication activities and places advertisements about marine park zoning to ensure reef visitors comply with zoning arrangements. Other advertising includes statutory advertising (Commonwealth Gazette for permits) and advertising for the Indigenous Grants Program.

The educational arm of the GBRMPA, ReefHQ Aquarium, undertakes communication activities for educational purposes and to ensure ongoing visitation to the facility.

The expenditure on advertising and communication related activities for GBRMPA for the period 1 July to 24 May is **\$108,676.65**.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has undertaken a broad range of communication and promotional activities including publications, signage, events, website banners, electronic direct mail and advertising.

The expenditure on advertising and communication related activities for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust for the period 1 July to 24 May is **\$98,858.55**.

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology has not undertaken any communications programs for the period 1 July to 24 May.

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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2. Water for the Future

Only one communications program with a significant budget has been undertaken (i.e. \$250,000 or more, as defined in the Australian Government Advertising Guidelines), the *Water for the Future* campaign.

The costs were as follows:

Campaign activity*	Total
Formative research	\$246,500
Creative pitch fee	\$22,727
PR pitch fee	\$12,726
Concept testing	\$127,652
Tracking research	\$70,000
Evaluation research	\$70,000 [#]
Creative agency	\$1,397,208
PR agency	\$150,000 [#]
Media buy	\$2,202,595
Total	\$4,299,408[^]

* As at 6 June 2011.

Final invoices still outstanding

[^] GST Exclusive

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 171

Topic: Legal Costs

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What sum did each portfolio department or any agency within the portfolio spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department or any agency within the portfolio on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department or any agency within the portfolio spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department or any agency within the portfolio spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

Under the Legal Services Directions 2005 (made by the Attorney-General under section 55ZF of the *Judiciary Act 1903*), the department is required to report to the Office of Legal Services Coordination about the legal services expenditure and legal work of the department within 60 days after the end of each financial year. In addition, this information must also be published on the department's internet site.

The department and portfolio agencies have commenced revising all legal services expenditure for the 2010/2011 financial year to prepare this report and will make every effort to provide the response to the Committee as soon as practicable. The report will include, amongst other things, the total amount spent on external legal services expenditure, including the names of the firms engaged to provide legal advice to the department and the amount spent with each firm.

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

Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 172

Topic: Media Monitoring

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office FYTD?
2. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
3. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department and its agencies in FYTD?
4. Which agency or agencies provided these services?

Answer:

- 1-2. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities provides a single online media monitoring service for the portfolio. This is available to all departmental staff and staff of the Bureau of Meteorology, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the Office of the Supervising Scientist. It is also available to the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and their staff.

The service includes press clips, broadcast summaries and electronic media transcripts. The cost of media monitoring for the FYTD (1 July 2010 – 1 June 2011) is \$562,326.40 (GST exclusive).

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

- 3-4. Media monitoring services were provided to the department by Media Monitors Pty Ltd from 30 June 2010 to 31 January 2011. The Australian Associated Press Pty Ltd (AAP) has provided these services from 1 January 2011. The two services overlapped for a period of one month to ensure continuity of service during the transition of media monitoring arrangements.

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Budget Estimates, May 2011

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau purchased additional media monitoring services including a trial of social media monitoring, media transcripts and monitoring of media not covered by the Department's arrangements.

3. The Bureau's spend on media monitoring services FYTD is \$21,929.
4. These media monitoring services were provided by; e-CBD Pty Ltd, Australian Associated Press Pty Ltd and Media Monitors Pty Ltd.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)

3. The GBRMPA spend on media monitoring services FYTD is \$32,003.
4. Media monitoring services are provided by Media Monitors Pty Ltd.

Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)

3. For the 2010/11 financial year (to 31 May 2011) MDBA expenditure on media monitoring (including press clippings, summaries, reports, transcripts, copies of audio/video) has totalled \$123,926.
4. Media Monitors Pty Ltd provided these services.

National Water Commission

3. The National Water Commission spend on media monitoring services FYTD is \$129,765.
4. Media monitoring services are provided by Media Monitors Pty Ltd.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: PCD

Question No: 173

Topic: Reviews

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

For both the department and agencies:

1. How many reviews are currently being undertaken by all departments and agencies in the portfolio?
2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
3. What reviews have been concluded FYTD?
4. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
5. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
6. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
7. What further reviews are planned for 2011-12 FY?

Answer:

Questions 2, 4, 5 and 6 are answered in the accompanying tables.

1. Five reviews are currently being undertaken across the portfolio.
3. Nine reviews have been concluded FYTD across the portfolio.
7. Three further reviews are planned for 2011-12 FY.
 - i. COAG Review of the National Water Commission
 - ii. Review of Australian Government Environmental Information Activity
 - iii. A review of the Bureau of Meteorology, addressing its capacity to respond to future extreme weather events and capability to provide seasonal forecasting.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

Reviews currently being undertaken across the portfolio

	Name of Review	Planned Conclusion Date	Estimated cost \$
1.	Great Artesian Basin Water Resource Assessment	December 2012	6.25 million
2.	Review of Caring for our Country	31/12/2011	45,500
3.	Native Vegetation Framework	End 2011 subject to Ministerial Council approval	314,000
4.	Evaluation of the Jobs Fund Heritage Program	31/07/ 2011	35,600
5.	Evaluation of the Jobs Fund Heritage Program	31/08/2011	177,000

Reviews have been concluded in 2010-11 across the portfolio.

	Name of Review	Completion date (FYTD)	Date provided to Govt	Government Response	Estimated cost \$
1.	Review of Mitigating Seal Interactions in the SRLF and the Gillnet Sector SESSF in South Australia	November 2010	November 2010	No formal government response required	5,000
2.	Review of the Environmental Stewardship Program	13/05/2011	13/05/2011	Review report released 23/05/2011. No government response required.	65,500
3.	The Review of Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030	27/10/2010		Strategy was finalised through a joint Commonwealth, State and Territory process and announced by Minister Burke on behalf of the Natural	690,000

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

				Resource Management Ministerial Council	
4.	Genetic population structure and bycatch assessment of management measures for reducing the bycatch of Australian sea lions in the demersal gillnet fishery off South Australia	December 2010	December 2010	No government response required	3,400
5.	Independent review of the Television and Computer Industry's interim standards for Collection, Transportation and Recycling of televisions and computers to determine their rigor, alignment with a proposed Australian Standard and suitability for the Australian context.	21/01/2011	21/01/2011	No government response required	26,000
6.	Independent review of the Television and Computer Industry's interim standards for Collection, Transportation and Recycling of televisions and computers to determine potential risks and costs	21/01/2011	15/03/2011	No government response required	37,000
7.	Baseline analysis of Occupational Health and Safety statistics specific to the e-waste recycling industry within Australia, including collection, storage, handling, transport and treatment/	7/3/2011	7/3/2011	No government response required	40,000

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2011

	processing				
8.	National Water Market system project	15/04/2011	15/04/2011	No government response required	45,000
9.	An Evaluation of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy - Commonwealth-managed Fisheries.	June 2011	30/06/2011	No Government response required	10,000