

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 24-25 MAY 2011

SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, WATER, POPULATION AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	1.1: AGLC	Birmingham	Review of Caring for our Country	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: ... On the external assistance you are seeking for this review, what consultants have been engaged and what work are they undertaking?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: I do not think I have a full list of those, but I can give you a sense of them. We have been working with the ANU, through the HC Coombs Policy Forum, to look at questions around the role of natural resource regional planning in these types of programs and how that might be improved into the future. We had a couple of consultancies around issues to do with Indigenous stakeholders. We have one which is surveying Indigenous people and people who are engaging in Indigenous projects to get input from them, and we have another which is looking into issues around trying to get a handle on the social and economic benefits that may flow from the Indigenous ranger programs, just so that we can get a handle in that space. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has been doing surveys on our behalf, including them within their surveys, so that we can make a judgment about the take-up rates around best practice, particularly in sustainable farming activities and those types of things. We have a survey that has been contracted to test how community groups prefer to receive their information—are the existing systems that we have in the program working or are there things that people would like to see changed? They are some of the types of things we have that are being undertaken by non-government contractors.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Could you take on notice to provide us with a detailed list of all of those and the budget et cetera that applies to each of them.</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: Certainly.</p>	48 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
2	1.1: AGLC	Abetz	Fox Eradication Program	<p>Senator ABETZ: ... But the federal taxpayer does help to subsidise what is called the Tasmanian fox task force?</p> <p>Dr Zammit: The eradication program, yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. Do you take any responsibility for how the money is spent?</p> <p>Dr Zammit: We are members of the steering committee for that program. It is a program that is equally funded by both governments. We are also members of technical advisory groups, so we are involved at both the strategic level and the technical and scientific level.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: During those consultations, did it ever spring to anybody's mind that this idea of importing fox scats into Tasmania might in fact bring in disease and hydatids?</p> <p>Dr Zammit: I do not recall an exact conversation around it. I know there was broad conversation around what would happen were this to arise, and we were reassured and continue to be reassured by the state regulators that they have the appropriate procedures in place for managing it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So you were told that right from the beginning?</p> <p>Dr Zammit: I would have to check the records.</p>	49 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

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				<p>Senator ABETZ: Because they are now claiming that by freezing these things at minus 80 degrees Celsius et cetera or using fox scats from foxes in captivity—</p> <p>Dr Zammit: I would need to check the record, because these conversations happened several times.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Please take that on notice. And can you take on notice for me as well when the program of introducing fox scats commenced, how many we believe were introduced into Tasmania prior to the new restrictions being imposed, and exactly when those new restrictions were imposed.</p> <p>Dr Zammit: We can take those on notice.</p>			
3	1.1: AGLC	Macdonald	Working on Country funding	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: The agriculture department, when we were talking about Caring for our Country, indicated that the rangers program was entirely your management responsibility. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: That is true.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: There is new money in this budget for Working on Country?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: It is not technically new money. Working on Country—that is the Indigenous rangers activity—was funded through a number of appropriations that have been put into their overtime. The government took a decision to consolidate those appropriations into one. So we have moved money around to put them into one appropriation.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Was the previous appropriation just from your department and the agriculture department or was it from others as well?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: No. There was appropriation from the old Natural Heritage Trust and there are also appropriations from other government programs like the CDEP reforms—the Community Development Employment Program projects.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Is it easy for you to give me a list of where the money came from that was consolidated in this program?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: We can do that.</p>	52 (24/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11
4	1.1: AGLC	MacDonald	Working on Country projects	<p>Page 53</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: Senator, you asked last night for a distribution of the projects. We have five projects. The vast majority of them are in the north. We have five projects in New South Wales, 20 in Queensland, 23 in the Northern Territory, seven in Western Australia, eight in South Australia, two in Victoria and three in Tasmania.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Thank you. Would I find these somewhere that you can refer me to, or can you get them to me on notice—just on what the 68 projects are?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: What the host agencies are?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Yes, and how much is involved in each case.</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: We would have to take that on notice but we would be able to provide that.</p> <p>Ms Fraser: Much of it is up on the website, though. It is publicly available. But we could give you a more detailed list.</p>	53 (24/5/11)	22/08/11 + 1 att't	25/08/11

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5	1.1: AGLC	MacDonald	Indigenous Ranger Programs	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: The reporting on these Indigenous ranger programs is all audited regularly, is it?</p> <p>Ms Fraser: Yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: How are they audited?</p> <p>Ms Fraser: They have to undertake independent audits from accredited auditors, and that occurs annually.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: And they are all A-okay? You do not have any problems with any of them across Australia?</p> <p>Ms Fraser: Occasionally we have questions about the audits and we tend to liaise with the proponents and get answers to those questions, as you would expect with any program.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: None of the Working on Country programs have been unsatisfactorily managed from the Commonwealth point of view?</p> <p>Ms Fraser: I would have to take that on notice. Not to the extent that we have had to, for example, pull funding from a project.</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: We will take that on notice, Senator.</p>	55 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
6	1.1: AGLC	MacDonald	Funding for Friends of Sceale Bay	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: I have a copy of the application but I do not have it in front of me. Did it indicate how much of the almost \$1 million they received was going to be for the documentary and how much for Indigenous employment and so on?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: I do not think it was \$1 million. It was \$779,000 including GST. I would have to check whether there was a breakdown in their budget as to the documentary.</p>	57 (24/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11
7	1.1: AGLC	Macdonald	South Australian assessment panel - Caring for our Country	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Yes, of course. And can you, perhaps on notice, indicate to me whether those three were in the panel of people you offered to the ministers for appointment?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: Whether they were in the list we suggested to the minister?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I do not think you can ask them to provide information that they have forwarded to the minister. That goes to the content of the communication, Senator Macdonald. I think that is slightly outside the remit. But we can take it on notice if you like and see whether there is any information the minister would like to add.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: I would not want to go outside the requirements of the Senate, Minister. You put forward a panel of people to the ministers and say, 'We need three and these three seem to be the most qualified.' I was just asking whether these three names appeared in the group of people you suggested to the ministers might be—</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: I will take that on notice, Senator, but my recollection is that the ministers have never stepped outside the list we have recommended.</p>	59 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
8	1.1: AGLC	Cameron	Regional NRM base level funding	<p>CHAIR: For instance in New South Wales there is \$2.6 million roughly for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority. Is that what you describe as base level funding?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: That is correct.</p>	61 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

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				<p>CHAIR: What types of projects would the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority be allocating to the open funding?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: They would be running a range of projects, probably principally across the biodiversity conservation type areas. Hawkesbury-Nepean is not a coastal environment but they would probably be doing some aquatic habitat projects, repairing vegetation—those types of things. I imagine they would be running sustainable farm practice projects and they would have a range of community skills and engagement activities. Beyond that, how any particular region has broken down its expenditure is something I would have to take on notice.</p>			
9	1.1: AGLC	Macdonald	Dingos and other wild dogs programs	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Are there any programs funded by the federal government dealing with dingoes and other wild dogs?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: I am not aware of any specific program in relation to Caring for our Country. I would have to take on notice whether any of our partners are involved in wild dog activities.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: I appreciate that CRCs are not this department, but do you have an input into the CRC program in relation to entities that deal specifically with environmental issues like dingoes and eradication?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: Not within the Caring for our Country program.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: I am really asking the department. If you did have anything it might be related to Caring for our Country, but my question was broader.</p> <p>Mr Tucker: There certainly has been some engagement with CRCs in the past and there are some CRCs that we have a strong connection with—for example the Antarctic CRC. In relation to that specific one nothing comes to mind but we can take it on notice and ask further.</p>	63 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
10	1.1: AGLC	Macdonald	Feral camels	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: The comment was made—and these are just comments that you get—that whilst there was a fair bit of money spent last year the return in actual camels culled was practically minimal but the expenditure on air fares, travel costs and administration was quite large. If this has not been asked by Senator Back of the other department, could you indicate just what has been spent in the last 12 months on the program and what results we have to show for that?</p> <p>Mr Flanigan: I will take that on notice...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Grimes: I may be of some assistance to you around the camels program. As luck has it, I do have some figures on the first year of the program.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: What year is that?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: That was 2009-10. The target was 15,000 camels. In the end 23,340 camels were removed in that year. As Mr Flanigan pointed out to you, it is true that with the wetter conditions there has been dispersal of camels across the countryside and that has made meeting targets in the second year much more difficult.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Thanks for that. Obviously it was a good program in the</p>	64-65 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

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				<p>first year, but I will get the details of the expenditure and the results for the current financial year.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: I am sorry; I do not have those.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: No, we will get those on notice.</p>			
11	1.1: AGLC	Birmingham	National Wildlife Corridors Plan advisory group	<p>Dr Zammit: I can run through the list of names for you again. They are Kym Cheatham from Ecotourism Australia; Professor Steve Dovers from the ANU; Debra Goostrey from the Urban Development Institute of Australia; Melissa George from the Indigenous Advisory Committee; Brett de Hayr, who is the National Landcare Facilitator; Judy Henderson, who is the chair of the Northern Rivers CMA; Doug Humann, who is the CEO of Bush Heritage Australia; Angus Hume, who is an independent agriculture and NRM adviser; Vicki-Jo Russell, who is on the South Australian NRM board and the Australian Landcare Council; Paul Sinclair from the Australian Conservation Foundation; Felicity Wishart from the Wilderness Society; and Deb Kerr from the NFF. That is the composition of the advisory group.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: It is a cast of thousands. They were selected on the department's recommendation to the minister?</p> <p>Dr Zammit: There was a process of our providing a range of names, and the minister took the judgment on his preferences for this particular group.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Is the advisory group paid or voluntary?</p> <p>Dr Zammit: It is paid under the Remuneration Tribunal arrangements. The standard Remuneration Tribunal arrangements apply to this group. So they get a per diem and travel expenses, as committees typically get.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: On notice could you provide details of the relevant tribunal categories et cetera for that group? That would be appreciated. The duration of appointments to the advisory group—is that for-</p> <p>Dr Zammit: It would be for the first three years, I would anticipate. It is a good question. I imagine it would be for the full three years but I can take that on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you could check on that and confirm to us it would be appreciated.</p>	67 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
12	1.1: AGLC	Birmingham	Local environmental initiatives from the mid-North Coast of New South Wales	<p>(page 67)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: 'These projects have come through the budget process' is a bit amorphous. Where did these projects come from? It is a very unusual budget line—'Local environment initiatives mid-North Coast New South Wales'. I know I would be happy to see a budget line of 'Local environmental initiatives west coast of South Australia', which we were discussing earlier, but we do not often see budget lines of this ilk.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: These projects, as Mr Flanigan indicated, have been considered through the budget process. As you would appreciate, we do not go into the details of the budget process. But they were matters that were considered through the budget.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 68)</p>	67, 68 and 69 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

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				<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Senator Conroy, do feel free to tell me where the Big Swamp project at Cattai Wetlands, the Lake Innes freshwater reversion program and a feasibility study into prevention of further erosion of the Old Bar Beach happened to miraculously appear in the budget process.</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I am happy to inquire on your behalf and see what information I can get from the minister.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Indeed—it is amazing. These three projects of \$3 million over three years have just morphed into the department's in-tray during the budget process—and the department does not know who is going to be delivering the projects, aside from the fact that the department is in charge of the money in present, how they are going to be delivered or what the comparative environmental benefits of them are.</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I am happy to take on notice the thrust of your stream of consciousness and see if there is anything the minister would like to add.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 69)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Can you provide on notice details of any analysis that has actually been undertaken as to the worthiness of these projects, and whether these projects meet any of the existing criteria for Caring for our Country or any of the programs that fit within the broad Caring for our Country headline. That would be appreciated.</p>			
13	1.1: AGLC	Brown	Tarkine - Regional Forest Agreement	<p>The original Tasmanian RFA suggests that the regulation of mining proposals in the Tarkine will primarily be a matter for the Tasmanian Government. Relevantly, clause 78 of the RFA states, 'The Parties agree that Forest uses other than timber production will be determined in accordance with Tasmanian legislation with due regard to protection of Environment and Heritage Values'. There are equivalent provisions in the other RFAs signed in other states. The Supplementary Tasmanian RFA signed in 2005 includes a slight modification of this provision. Clause 8 of this agreement states: 'The Parties agree that all additional protected areas on public land will remain available for mineral exploration and mining under the Mineral Resources Development Act 1995 in accordance with clause 79 of the RFA and subject to any requirements under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999'. In relation to these provisions:</p> <p>(a) is there an understanding between the Commonwealth and the Tasmanian Government on how mining projects in the Tarkine (and other areas of Tasmania) will be regulated under the EPBC Act so as to give effect to the intent of the original RFA, or are mining projects in the Tarkine treated like any other project under the EPBC Act?</p> <p>(b) does the Commonwealth believe it would be acting consistently with the RFA if it rejected, under the EPBC Act, a mining proposal in the sections of the Tarkine that are available to mining under the RFA?</p> <p>(c) does the Commonwealth believe it would be acting consistently with the RFA if it imposed strict conditions, under the EPBC Act, on a mining proposal in the sections of</p>	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11

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				the Tarkine that are available to mining under the RFA? (d) given that the Tasmanian RFA has been amended to explicitly note the role of the EPBC Act in regulating mining proposals in the Tasmanian RFA area, does the Commonwealth intend to make similar amendments to the RFAs in other states; or is there already an understanding between the Commonwealth and the states that all mining proposals in RFA areas are subject to the EPBC Act and that they will be treated like any other proposal?			
14	1.1: PAD	Birmingham	Feral pests and invasive species	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: In your KPIs for this year and the forward years you have no net increase in the distribution or abundance of significant invasive species.</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: Correct.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Have you been meeting that KPI?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: We are assembling the report for this financial year. We do address that in the annual report that was tabled in parliament last October. I think we said that, on the most significant species, we are covered. We said: “We are monitoring 20 significant invasive species across our six major reserves. Of those populations five are increasing. Three are remaining steady, four are decreasing and for eight we still do not have enough information to be able to conclude clearly.”</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Of the five that are increasing, what are those species and in which of the reserves are they most predominant?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: I would have to take that on notice. I would say Christmas Island and Kakadu are probably the ones that are most likely to have the increases in population. They are the most challenging for us.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Could you take it on notice and give us that detail?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: Sure.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Perhaps across all 20, so we get a fair picture of those that are reducing as well.</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: In association with the annual report, we publish every year what we call the <i>State of the Parks</i> reports, which have a lot more detail than the summary that is in the annual report. That is on the website. That information may already be published. If it is, I will refer you directly to it. I think we provide that level of detail.</p>	43 (24/5/11)	12/07/11 + 1 att't	25/08/11
15	1.1: PAD	Birmingham	Camping fees	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: So entry fees, camping fees, those types of fees, are not part of that review? Is it more of a review of fees that relate to the commercial operation of the parks?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: We would keep camping fees under review. As they change in similar parks run by other agencies or in the same region, we would look to make sure that we maintained some sort of parity with those. The other opportunity for us is that, if we improve the investment in some of our camp grounds and upgrade them, we have a better chance of charging something more for them. We have a three-level fee at Kakadu. If we improve the facilities at a number of our camp grounds—for example, by moving from pit toilets to ablution blocks—then we can increase fees. They also become more popular and</p>	44 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

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				<p>there is increased visitation.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Do you undertake comparisons of those fee structures between camping options in your parks and others—entry fee options, et cetera?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: From time to time but probably not in the last year or so. We have certainly received and commissioned some excellent studies looking at comparative rates just to make sure. We are benchmarking ourselves.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If there is some data that you are—without blowing any commercial sensitivities—able to provide on notice on comparisons, that would be appreciated. ...</p>			
16	1.2: Marine	Birmingham	Dugongs	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: What are the current population understandings or estimates on the dugong?</p> <p>Mr Routh: I do not have those in front of me, but I can take that on notice because that data does exist.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you could. I assume they are segmented by an east coast, Cape York et cetera type of regional basis.</p> <p>Mr Routh: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: And the trends in that regard, such as they exist, would be useful as well. I will do prosecutions and enforcement tomorrow in the appropriate space, hopefully</p>	81 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
17	1.2: Marine	Birmingham	IWC meetings	<p>(page 85)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Who will be leading the delegation to this year's IWC?</p> <p>Ms Petrachenko: Minister Burke is planning to attend the commission meeting.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: That will be his first, I assume.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: And what a great spot to have it, in Jersey!</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Yes. Have you finalised the size of the delegation for this year?</p> <p>Ms Petrachenko: We are in the process of doing that. I can tell you that we have two confirmed representatives from non-governmental organisations, as is the normal practice. We had a roundtable meeting with those NGOs with an interest in whales and they have nominated two individuals to be part of the delegation. They pay their own expenses. I will be there, as well as Ms Schweitzer, our alternate commissioner. Dr Nick Gales from the Antarctic Division, who is head of our delegation to the Scientific Committee, will be there. There will be officers, yet to be finalised, from our department, from Foreign Affairs and from Attorney-General's.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: When they are finalised, could you provide that? If it is in time that would be greatly appreciated. ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 86)</p> <p>CHAIR: Ms Petrachenko, on whaling while we are there, how many IWC meetings have you attended?</p>	85 and 86 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

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				<p>Ms Petrachenko: The first meeting I attended was in Anchorage, which would have been five years ago if my memory serves me correctly.</p> <p>CHAIR: So you have attended IWC meetings under the previous government and this government.</p> <p>Ms Petrachenko: That is correct.</p> <p>CHAIR: Are delegations getting bigger or smaller, or are they staying the same?</p> <p>Ms Petrachenko: I think they are approximately the same size, but I can check that on notice.</p>			
18	1.2: Marine	Siewert	Fishing gear assessment process	<p>(page 89)</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. Could I ask about the south-west process. I understand there has been a fishing gear assessment process undertaken as part of that process.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Yes, that is correct.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Is that being made publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: It is not yet a public document; it is a draft in relation to which we are continuing to consult the fishing industry.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What is the time line for that, then?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I have not got a time line for the public release of that at this stage.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Is it likely to be within the time of the public consultation period? If you are consulting with industry over it, shouldn't it be available for all the stakeholders to have a look at?...</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 90)</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So that is why I am asking: why are other stakeholders not involved as well?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I have indicated that the intention at this stage is that the focus would be with the fishing industry but that we have an open mind about the potential involvement of other stakeholders in that. I think the real question is whether there is in the end value in continuing to go over the risk assessment work or whether the conversation actually needs to move on to its application in each of the proposed reserves.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: And that is why I asked originally: when is it being released? And you cannot tell me.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: And I will take that one on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Obviously, we are interested in seeing it released before the end of the consultation period.</p>	89 and 90 (24/5/11)	05/09/11	22/09/11
19	1.2: Marine	Macdonald	North bioregional plan - consultation	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: We are running out of time; we only have 20 minutes for the rest of this. I have asked this before. I have indicated that there continue to be complaints in the gulf region that there is not sufficient consultation happening. I suspect you would deny that. Could you perhaps on notice just indicate to me what the consultation process has been and what it continues to be? Has it finished or is it still going on?</p>	91 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

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				Mr Oxley: It is ongoing, Senator. I am happy to provide on notice some update for the benefit of the committee as to the consultation process, particularly in relation to the north.			
20	1.2: Marine	Birmingham	Regional marine planning program	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: I am about to get cut off. Is there any funding beyond 2011-12?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: My understanding, Senator, is that, firstly, we have a lapsing program. I understand that there would be an equivalent sum in the provisional forward estimates.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: In the provisional forward estimates?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: That would be my understanding. So you will note in the budget papers—just let me find it; it was footnote No. 2 on page 24 of the portfolio budget statement—that \$9.7 million was previously provided for in the 2011-12 estimates for this measure. I understand, but I will correct it if I am wrong, that a similar amount appears in the forward estimates.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you could provide details of that forward funding and where that exists and where we might be able to find it in the budget papers, that would be most helpful, Mr Oxley. There are no plans or expectations of the government to provide any compensation or otherwise if there are fishers who are dislocated in some way out of this process?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: It is not correct at all to suggest there are no plans—I missed the second descriptor—to provide structural adjustment assistance. The minister released on 3 May a fisheries adjustment policy that sets out the policy basis for providing financial support or structural adjustment assistance in circumstances where commercial fishers are impacted by the creation of new marine reserves or the rezoning of existing marine reserves. That policy sets out the process that the government will go through in terms of undertaking a socioeconomic impact assessment. They are the sorts of things that will be looked at as part of that process. Once we have done the socioeconomic impact assessment, it is at that point that the government will make a decision about the extent to which it provides structural adjustment assistance.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Can you on notice just let us know what, where and if any funds are provided or contingencies are identified to provide for that compensation process.</p>	94 (24/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11
21	1.2: Marine	Siewert	Demersal trawling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main impacts of demersal trawling on Australia's marine environment? 2. How is this activity incompatible with marine reserves? 3. Having proposed that 41% of the South West region be off limits for demersal trawl, does the Department expect to wind-back significant amounts of that important protection? And if so, why? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
22	1.2: Marine	Siewert	Dieback Threat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What progress has been made in drafting a new Threat Abatement Plan to address Dieback? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Abatement Plan	<p>2. What consultation has occurred to date? Who has been consulted? Is further consultation planned, if yes, with who and how?</p> <p>3. When can we expect the new TAP to be completed?</p>			
23	1.2: Marine	Siewert	Marine Bioregional Planning - funding	<p>1. How much has been spent by the Department in progressing the Marine Bioregional Planning program since its inception?</p> <p>2. What funding is available over the next 3 years for the implementation of the election commitment to deliver national CAR system of marine reserves in Australia's commonwealth waters?</p> <p>3. Specifically, what funding is available to compensate fishers who may be displaced, and for ongoing management?</p> <p>4. Why was there no funding allocated in this year's budget, even in forward estimates, beyond ongoing program costs, for this purpose?</p> <p>5. To what degree has the lack of funding likely to be available, compromised the Department's work in developing the draft reserve system in the South West?</p> <p>6. What funding has the Department provided the fishers in recent years, to enable their engagement in the marine bioregional planning process?</p>	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11
24	1.2: Marine	Siewert	Marine Bioregional Planning – Oil and gas	<p>1. Oil and gas covers a vast area off Australia's coastline – particularly off Western Australia, including over a number of important features, habitats and ecosystems. It would appear that the Network design specifically avoids oil and gas (both leasehold areas and areas considered by Geoscience Australia to be prospective). Eg: in the South West Draft Plan, it is proposed that 41% of the region be made off limits to demersal trawl, but not one area of petroleum interest is restricted. How has the Department dealt with the issue of oil and gas in developing its methodology?</p> <p>2. In April this year the Resources portfolio opened up an unprecedented amount of Australia's ocean territory to oil and gas – particularly off WA's coastline. The new acreage includes areas that have been mooted for inclusion in the NRSMPA, including off the Abrolhos Islands, and surrounding Rowley Shoals – two of the most important areas for biodiversity in Australian waters. Was the Department consulted by the resources portfolio? And if so, what was the Department's input and to what degree was it heeded?</p>	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
25	1.2: Marine	Siewert	Marine Bioregional Planning – South East region	Despite its inadequacies, the Draft South West Plan marks a marked departure from the conservation result delivered in the South East region. What are the factors that have led to this?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
26	1.2: Marine	Siewert	Marine Bioregional Planning – South West draft plan	<p>1. Does the Department acknowledge that very little of the continental shelf and slope in the South West region is proposed for sanctuary zone protection? This is in sharp contrast to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park where most of the 35% high level Green Zone protection is on the shelf/slope area. Why has so little been proposed for protection? Does the Department believe that Australia's SW is not as important as the GBR?</p>	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>2. The Draft SW Plan proposes to put the least amount of protection over the area of greatest biodiversity – the shelf and slope area (called ‘the zone of importance’ by scientists). Will this be addressed in the final plan?</p> <p>3. The Draft SW Plan relegates what marine sanctuaries are proposed to areas where fishing and mining do not occur, with less than 5% of marine sanctuaries occurring in the shelf ‘zone of importance’. How has the imperative to minimise economic cost compromised the conservation result proposed in the Draft Plan?</p> <p>4. Why is so little of the waters off South Australia proposed for protection? Less than 3% of the proposed marine sanctuaries occur in the waters off SA.</p> <p>5. There are three known blue whale feeding areas in Australia’s EEZ – the Bonney Upwelling off the Victorian coastline, the waters west of Kangaroo Island, and the Perth Canyon. The blue whale feeding grounds off the Bonney upwelling were not protected when the South East region was done some years ago. The Draft Plan for the South West provides no high level protection for the blue whales in their two remaining known feeding areas. Given that the blue whale is endangered and showing no signs of recovery, why are there no sanctuary zones proposed for the Perth Canyon or over the Kangaroo Island Canyons?</p> <p>6. Will the Department commission an independent scientific review of the Draft SW marine reserve network before the Plan is finalized?</p>			
27	1: BOM	Humphries	Weather station reviews	<p>(page 18) Senator HUMPHRIES: Fair enough. You said, Dr Smith, that a review is underway at the moment, arising from the recent flooding, to determine what shortfall or gaps might exist in BoM's network. Was a process previously underway to determine what areas of need BoM might have identified in its general network of weather stations around the nation? Dr Smith: Yes, Senator. Almost annually, if not more often than that, we will go through our networks—particularly as we are going through our four-year plans, our strategic plans ... Senator HUMPHRIES: Are any of those annual review outcomes available for public consumption? Can we see what you have produced by way of those reviews? Dr Smith: The basic observing system study is public. The radar review, and our assessments of its status, is also a public document. In general, all those documents are public documents. Senator HUMPHRIES: I assume it is on the website? Dr Smith: I would say yes, but I would need to check. There is no reason why it should not be on our website. Senator HUMPHRIES: If you could provide us with the links to the right area of the website or perhaps table the documents that demonstrate those annual reviews—say, for the last three years—that would be helpful. </p>	18 and 19 (24/5/11)	02/08/11 + 2 att'ts	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				(page 19) Dr Smith: Perhaps I could clarify an answer I gave before about the reviews. The reviews I was referring to are ones we have done intermittently—say, three or four years apart. We do not review the whole network annually. So the publications I was referring you to were ones that are done sometimes every three years or something like that. Senator HUMPHRIES: All right. Could I have the last of those reviews that you have conducted and any other interim reviews you have conducted in the last three years. Dr Smith: Yes, Senator.			
28	1: BOM	Humphries	River level monitoring device	Senator HUMPHRIES: All right. What is the cost of, specifically, a river-level monitoring device? Dr Canterford: I would not have an estimate. We do not have one. Dr Smith: We will take that on notice, Senator. Senator HUMPHRIES: Can you also take on notice what the ongoing operating costs of each of those devices would be, please.	19 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
29	1: BOM	Macdonald	Staff hours during Cyclone Yasi	Senator IAN MACDONALD: ... What I really want to know is: in relation to Cyclone Yasi, what is the maximum number of hours any particular staff member worked nonstop? Perhaps you could get me that on notice. Dr Canterford: Okay. Senator IAN MACDONALD: They do a fabulous job, as I said to you before, and they are essential. I am just concerned that over the years there seems to have been a diminution in the number of staff in Townsville, Cairns and other more remote places that then has to be made up by asking existing staff to work unreasonable hours at times of crises. Dr Canterford: Yes, I agree. Senator IAN MACDONALD: That is the nature of my question. It is certainly not a criticism of the work that those great people do. If you can assure me yet again that there is no diminution in staff in these more remote areas, if you can assure me that staff are not being centralised in both Brisbane and Melbourne, I would be forever grateful. I will continue to seek those assurances for as long as I am here. ...	20 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
30	1: BOM	Macdonald	Willis Island	Senator IAN MACDONALD: ... Can you give me an update on Willis Island, which was flattened by the cyclone? When is it expected to be operational again? ... Dr Canterford: As you are aware, the work is progressing now on repairs to Willis Island. There has been a review of that recently and I will quote from it. It is progressing well. I am not too sure of the exact timing for the completion of that work, but I am told that it will be ready in time for the next season. Senator IAN MACDONALD: So it will be ready by October? Dr Canterford: I might have to take that on notice. I cannot quite see it in my notes here. Dr Smith: I do not believe, for example, that the radar will be ready by then. Again, it is trying to get all of the logistics and the work done out on the site. Some parts, like the	20 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>radar, may not be ready by October. But they have done all the survey and assessment of what needs to be done now and they are now agreeing on the work. So there is no real obstacle, other than logistics, in starting to get that done.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: How are you going to fund the reconstruction? Do you get special allocations?</p> <p>Dr Smith: No. Willis Island is all covered under Comcover, so it is all insured. We have been through those discussions. I think they are now complete, so we have agreement on the replacement.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Could you tell me, on notice: what is to be done and when do you expect it to be done, and are there are any hold-ups? You know better than I do that it is a very important part of the protection network across Northern Australia. I would appreciate that. ...</p>			
31	1: BOM	Joyce	Weather prediction	<p>Senator JOYCE: In the Bureau of Meteorology, what is the probability of your prediction for the weather tomorrow? When you put out a report, it has a variance in it. Are you 95 per cent or 99 per cent likely to be correct?</p> <p>Dr Smith: I do not have that number in my head. But certainly, our daily forecasts are skilful—depending on where you are. If you are in Darwin, you will have one set of numbers and, if you are in Melbourne, you will get another, or in Canberra. A rough ballpark I often quote to people is that our five-day forecasts now are as skilful as our one-day forecasts were about 30 years ago. They are very skilful.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: I agree with you. Would it be 95 per cent correct? Do you have any idea of how you are going in your analysis? Are you within the 95 percentile, 90 percentile or 99 percentile bracket?</p> <p>Dr Smith: Our skill scores are not done that way. Certainly, on notice, we could provide you with the skill scores of our models for all of the major regions. Every regional office keeps a table of its skill scores.</p>	22 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
32	1: BOM	Siewert	National Plan for Environmental Information	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. Finally, on the funding for this project, maybe if you can take it on notice or tell me where to find it in the papers, because I cannot actually find the funding specifically for this particular outcome.</p> <p>Dr Vertessy: I will have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you.</p>	26 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
33	1: BOM	Boswell	Carbon emissions	<p>Page 27- 28</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: ... 'If the world as a whole cut all emissions tomorrow the average temperature of the planet is not going to drop for several hundred years, perhaps as much as a thousand years.' Do you agree with that statement?</p> <p>Dr Smith: It depends on what he is putting it relative to. I have not got the document in front of me. I could go back and look at the document. He is obviously saying that relative to some point in time. I do not recall offhand just what point in time he was referring to.</p>	27 - 28 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Senator BOSWELL: He was referring to tomorrow. That was the point in time, tomorrow. 'If the world as a cut all emissions tomorrow'—</p> <p>Dr Smith: So if you take the global temperatures as we have them today, how long would it take? It will take very severe cutbacks in greenhouse warming to return the temperatures back to what they are today. If that is the message he has got in there, then I would agree with that.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: How much would you say you would have to cut them back?</p> <p>Dr Smith: That is getting outside the bureau's expertise. Again, this is something that is being debated in the international community. I think in the report they focused on a number of scenarios. There is a significant challenge there if we are going to return those temperatures back, even to keep it within that two-degree limit, which is the target that a lot of the international community is focused on.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: You say that would take a hundred years or so to get there?</p> <p>Dr Smith: I cannot quite understand what the content must have been for that hundred years.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: It says 'several hundred years, perhaps as much as a thousand years'.</p> <p>Dr Smith: I would have to take it on notice. I have not got the context of all of those statements sitting in front of me.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: I will put it on notice.</p>			
34	1: BOM	Joyce and Cameron	Carbon dioxide levels	<p>Dr Smith: We know from the science over the last 30 years that the greenhouse effect does lead to warming of the planet. A lot of that heat is absorbed by the oceans. When the oceans warm, they expand. So it is a reasonably straightforward equation. Of course, there are lots of other variables like glaciers and melting of ice that have to be taken into account. Those are a little more difficult to both measure and to estimate in the future.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: How much of that CO2 comes from man-made, anthropogenic, causes as opposed to natural causes?</p> <p>Dr Smith: Again, you are getting outside of the bureau. The bureau is not necessarily the right place to ask those questions. There are a lot of studies, including the IPCC reports, where they have gone into detailed attributions of the sources. Of course, there are very detailed techniques for tracing the source of carbon dioxide, whether it is anthropogenic or by natural causes.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: How much is anthropogenic?</p> <p>Dr Smith: I would have to take that on notice because I do not have that sort of information—</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: You are very certain about some of these other answers.</p> <p>CHAIR: I am asking some questions; the senator has had plenty of time. Dr Smith, as a scientist, the issue you have raised is that the chemistry defines that there will be increasing sea levels. Senator Joyce earlier said that nobody serious has ever said that 99 per cent of scientists agree that the science is settled. That is not what the scientists are</p>	29 - 30 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>saying, is it? They are saying that the scientific consensus is that there is a 90 per cent degree of probability that the climate is changing, and that is quite an overwhelming scientific position to adopt.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: I will correct that: there is a 100 per cent chance that the climate is changing; it is definitely not staying the same.</p> <p>CHAIR: We are talking about CO2 emissions. Dr Smith?</p> <p>Dr Smith: Again, I will refer to the IPCC reports. In those reports they conclude—and if I can remember the words exactly right—that it is virtually certain that the planet is warming as a result of enhanced greenhouse gas levels. Again, if you want me to get the details, I can take it on notice, but they are all in the fourth assessment and the third assessment reports.</p>			
35	1: BOM	Cameron	IPCC reports on sea levels	<p>CHAIR: Dr Smith, before I go back to the coalition, I think we should settle one issue. Can you take this on notice? A document has been tabled by Senator Boswell. Could you give us a detailed explanation—you do not have to do it now because the coalition are seeking to ask other questions—as to why that could be interpreted differently to the two most recent IPCC reports in 2001 and 2007? Could you also explain the last paragraph in the document? It says:</p> <p>“When interpreting the results it is important to consider the following information about the long-term sea level records, particularly issues relating to data quality, datum stability and land motion”.</p> <p>I am not sure what that means, because this qualification was not appended. Please take that on notice. It is an important point, I think, and we need to get some clarification on that...</p>	31 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
36	1: BOM	Humphries	Monitoring of river levels	<p>(page 31)</p> <p>Senator HUMPHRIES: Are you aware of the comments by Richard Stone, the chairman of the UN Commission for Agricultural Meteorology, who was quoted in the <i>Brisbane Times</i> as saying that the technology used by the Bureau of Meteorology cannot properly advise towns of impending flash flooding? He urged the governments to buy new technology which could better predict flash floods. Are you aware of those comments?</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 32)</p> <p>Dr Vertessy: I am not personally aware of those comments.</p> <p>Senator HUMPHRIES: I make the suggestion that you might like to discern or find out what he has said about this. He seems to be a person with some authority on the use of this technology. ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HUMPHRIES: I do not want to waste any more time here. I can give you the reference to what Mr Stone is supposed to have said. Can I ask you to take on notice an assessment, a response to what Mr Stone has said, about the adequacy of BoM's flooding technology? Perhaps you might take this on notice: I want to know about the process</p>	31 and 32 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				whereby the 6,000 or so cooperative rainfall observers are recruited into the network that BoM either runs or is involved with for monitoring flood levels. I want to know what is required of a cooperative rainfall observer in terms of qualifications or level of reporting—how that information is provided to BoM or to other networks into which BoM feeds—and whether there are any plans to upgrade either the number of observers or the means by which they contribute to BoM's monitoring of river levels particularly. ...			
37	1: BOM	Humphries	Freedom of Information request – Warwick Hughes	<p>I refer the Minister to the attached response (6/5/2011) from the Bureau of Meteorology to a Freedom of Information Request from Mr Warwick Hughes. I refer the Minister to documents 49-51 listed therein dated 8/10/2010 titled “Internal discussion regarding media coverage of NIWA court case leading to preparation of a senate estimates briefing” and subsequent attachments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can a copy of these documents be provided to the Committee? If not, why not? 2. What issues are canvassed in these documents? 3. Why did the Bureau think it necessary to produce a senate estimates briefing on these issues? 4. What arguments did the Bureau provide to the Minister in relation to the NIWA court case? <p>[Schedule of documents is at Attachment A]</p>	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11
38	1: GBRMPA	Birmingham	Enforcement notices – Great Barrier Reef	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thanks, Chair. Do you have a range of functions that allow you to provide penalties or enforcement notices for different activities in the precinct?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: What number of penalties have been provided or enforcement notices issued during the course of this year and for what different activities?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: I am sorry, Senator, I do not have those statistics with me. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Okay, take that on notice—a breakdown across the different enforcement areas and how that compares year on year.</p>	38 (24/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11
39	1: GBRMPA	Birmingham	Fishing – Great Barrier Reef	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: ... Lastly—and certainly take this one on notice—could you provide me with a summary of the regulations that exist around fishing and how they differ for Indigenous and non-Indigenous fishing activities and so on in the authority precincts? That would be appreciated</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: Yes, we can do that.</p>	38 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
40	2.1: EQD	Heffernan	Cold weather diesel	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Thank you very much for your indulgence, Mr Chairman. I have an issue with fuel standards. I have a constituent in Adaminaby in the Snowy Mountains area who informs me that she and her neighbours have a problem because, with the fuel that is available—diesel fuel, that is; for those who do not know, they alter the formula from summer to winter—the winter formula is only good for down to minus four. In recent weeks they have had a serious problem starting diesel vehicles because the local Shell</p>	97 – 98 (24/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>region service station owner confirmed that the only fuel available to him from the Shell distributor was good to minus four. He said there was a product available which could hold the fuel to minus nine. In an effort to overcome this inconvenience, the people in the region have been doing things like boiling the jug to unfreeze the fuel in the morning so they can start the diesel vehicle. They have been putting rugs over the engines overnight and they are feeling very desperate. I wondered what we could do to assist them in terms of getting fuel that perhaps could be good down to minus nine.</p> <p>Dr Wright: The department is responsible for the Fuel Quality Standards Act, which is about ensuring that the environmental impact of fuel on human health and the environment is reduced. So that goes to particulate matter and to the specific content of certain types of materials. It is not, unfortunately, an operability standard, so I am not sure that I can provide any further advice in this session. But I could seek to find out which portfolio might be able to assist you.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: The difficulty—and I can understand the commercial considerations behind this—is, without naming people, that the local distributor said you could in fact hold fuel that works to minus nine. He said he used to add it to big tanks, but because there are only three service stations in the region they are not prepared to supply this fuel. This means that the people in the Adaminaby-Cooma area are seriously inconvenienced in winter weather. The chairman seems to have disappeared. I have to declare an interest. I am a farmer and I am very conscious of the alteration in the formula from winter to summer. I will be looking for some advice about how we can assist the people in the Snowy Mountains region with their diesel fuel vehicles. Madam Acting Chair, it appears that the older vehicles like me—I am an old vehicle—work more readily. They can start more readily. The modern diesel vehicles simply do not work. So what will we do about it?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Senator, as Dr Wright said, it is not an area that the portfolio is responsible for under the Fuel Quality Standards Act. But we could undertake to find out where the relevant area is in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Well, I would be grateful if you could take the proposition.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: That would be helpful.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: I could give you the note. If you could come back to me on notice, I would be most grateful.</p>			
41	2.1: EQD	Fisher	Product Stewardship for Tyres	Has an agreement been reached for voluntary product stewardship for the tyre industry? If yes, when was it reached and what are its terms?	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11
42	2.2: Housing	Payne	National Housing Supply Council	<p>(page 102)</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: So the council members were reappointed last week notwithstanding the fact that they were due to be appointed last year. When did the department provide advice to the minister on possible replacement members?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Just for the record, the appointments were announced on 12 May.</p>	102 and 103 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Senator PAYNE: Sorry, just after the budget, then. Lovely.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: On 12 May, yes. In terms of your question, of course, following the briefing material that was provided to the government in the incoming government brief context, we have had several discussions and provided advice to the minister on appointments in the intervening period.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: Can you indicate approximately when that was, Mr Thompson?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I do not have those dates, Senator.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: Could you take that on notice, please.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I will take it on notice...</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 103)</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: So when was the last time a meeting of the council in any incarnation actually took place?</p> <p>Ms Wiley-Smith: I do not have that information with me, Senator, so I am happy to take that on notice.</p>			
43	2.2: Housing	Payne	Housing Affordability Fund projects	<p>Senator PAYNE: I want to go back to the Ropes Crossing project, which Senator Cameron referred to. Ms Wiley-Smith, what is the status of that road project?</p> <p>Ms Wiley-Smith: Just bear with me as I find the document.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: Andrews Road to Sherringham Road, I think you said, on the northern road. What is the status of the project? Where is it up to? When is it expected to be completed?</p> <p>Ms Wiley-Smith: I will just check for you, Senator, and see if I have the information here. It looks like it is close to completion, with the information that I have in front of me, but I can certainly take that on notice and get further information for you.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: Thank you. I would appreciate that. In relation to other projects which have received HAF funding of that nature, can you take on notice for the committee a breakdown of those projects state by state and area by area in relation to the savings returned to home buyers and to purchasers in each one and outline those for the committee?</p> <p>Ms Wiley-Smith: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: All of those projects under the HAF?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes, we will take that on notice. They will be average savings. And for some of them, depending on where the projects are in terms of completion, those average savings might be more or less estimates.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: Thank you very much. Ms Wiley-Smith, if you have taken the details of that question about the road project for the Ropes Crossing development on notice, will you indicate for the committee the status of that project—where it is up to, when it was commenced, what its completion date was supposed to be and when it will be completed?</p> <p>Ms Wiley-Smith: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: Thank you very much. ...</p>	105 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
44	2.2: Housing	Ludlam	NRAS - incentives	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I want to go directly to the rounds. In NRAS round 3, I think you called for applications with 1,000-plus incentives. You received 25. Can we have an update? And, maybe to keep this fairly short, can you table a list of successful applicants to round 3?</p> <p>Ms Finnigan: Applicants? I would have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: No. That is what I am asking.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes. We can do that.</p>	107 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
45	2.2: Housing	Payne	NRAS – consideration of incentives	<p>Senator PAYNE: Ms Finnigan, correct me, but did you indicate that you have made 1,800 offers and not supported 7,000—so that takes us to 9,800—which have been considered between 14 December and 24 May and you have 52,000 incentives to consider between 24 May and 14 June?</p> <p>Ms Finnigan: That is right, Senator. Action is progressing on all of those. Some of those are almost complete.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: What proportion of the 52,000 is almost complete?</p> <p>Ms Finnigan: I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: Could you hazard a guess? In fact, to put it into estimates language, could you make an estimate?</p> <p>Ms Finnigan: No. I would rather not, Senator. I really would not want to mislead.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: No. And I am not asking you to do that. But I am thinking—and I assume if Senator Ludlam is doing the maths at the same time—in what amounts to essentially three weeks you are going to consider 52,000 outstanding incentives, having processed 7,800 in five months. How is that possible?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: Senator, clearly assessment processes of this sort are something that go over many months .</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: I understand. I am trying to get a better understanding.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: So it is not that we start an assessment, deal with those assessments and start a new lot of assessments and deal with them. If that were the case, then the maths would indicate that we would have a very challenging task on our hands in the next few weeks. I think, as Ms Finnigan was indicating, processes have now been running for several months and that will now come to an end over the next few weeks.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: That is why I asked Ms Finnigan for an assessment of what proportion was up to what point, which would give the committee a better idea. I understand that she is taking that on notice and that is fine.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Senator, I will add to that. There is a large number of incentives and there is a much smaller number of applicants.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: Yes. I appreciate that.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: So that puts it in context. I will quickly say too that, as Dr Grimes said, it is not a linear process, in a sense.</p> <p>Senator PAYNE: No. That is why I was trying to get an idea.</p>	108 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
46	2.2: Housing	Ludlam	NRAS - six-	<p>Senator LUDLAM: With regard to NRAS and six-star standards, can you provide us with</p>	109 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			star standards and tax amendments	<p>some up-to-date statistics on what kind of ratings you are building as far as energy and water?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Sorry, this is under NRAS?</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Yes, it is. And not now. I am going to have to fly through a bunch of stuff. But that is one. I just want to get a bit of a sense of how you are handling six-star ratings and how your buildings are performing. WA, I understand, has also delayed introducing a six-star standard. Can you indicate how you are handling that? I give apologies; that is my home state. What about NRAS incentives in boom towns where land is unbelievably expensive and your incentives have barely touched the sides? When I last checked, it was not working in the mining towns, where the real estate markets are berserk, so I would appreciate an update on how you are handling that. For example, have you considered more innovative models, like the dual key system, where you actually give out two incentives for one legal dwelling that would still accommodate two families? It would be classified as two dwellings. I am very interested in that. And there is the exposure draft legislation for the tax laws. So where did the TLA National Rental Affordability Scheme bill go?</p> <p>Ms Finnigan: I understand that, of course, tax amendment is a responsibility of Treasury.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: It is. But it is your scheme.</p> <p>Ms Finnigan: They are getting tabled next week.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: What are you doing in the meantime—and these are all on notice—to provide confidence to investors that they will still receive the rebatable tax offset, because this thing has been hanging around the neck of this scheme since it was first thought up?</p>			
47	2.2: Housing	Payne	Building Better Regional Cities - funding	What is the current departmental funding for administration of the Building Better Regional Cities program? How many staff are allocated to the program?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
48	2.2: Housing	Payne	Commonwealth land	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your department's Incoming Government Brief stated that "the release of surplus Commonwealth land will go some way towards assisting housing supply". Can you quantify this? 2. How much land would be made available if all the land on the register was sold? 3. How many dwellings is this expected to make land available for? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
49	2.2: Housing	Payne	CSIRO Rockhampton site	Has the CSIRO Rockhampton site, named on the register of surplus Commonwealth land, been sold? If so, please provide full details of the approach to disposing of the land, the conditions upon the sale and the amount of money raised.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
50	2.2: Housing	Payne	National Affordability Summit	In the 2011-12 Budget hearings the department referred to a meeting between the Minister and a 'national affordability summit'. The department stated that this is different to the NRAS Advisory Group. Can you please provide details on the national affordability	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				summit, including its membership, its role, the regulatory of meetings etc.			
51	2.2: Housing	Payne	NRAS in flood affected areas	During the 2011-12 Budget hearings the department stated that the NRAS regulations require applications to be assessed in the order in which they are made, and that this is being done. Yet in the answer to QoN 79 you stated that “applications related to flood affected areas will be prioritised for assessment”. Which is it? Please properly explain the priority that was placed on assessment, and whether there is actually any priority attached to the allocation of incentives to flood-affected areas.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
52	2.2: Housing	Payne	NRAS timeframes	In light of the government’s admission that the timeframes for later NRAS rounds were not realistic, are successful NRAS applicants for previous rounds being granted extensions? If so: a. How are extension applications assessed? b. If on a case by case basis, what happens with large NRAS builders who have hundreds of properties to build? Is there a mechanism for them to have extensions assessed as an entity? I have been informed that the administrative costs of doing hundreds of applications are very high indeed.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
53	2.2: Housing	Payne	Register of surplus Commonwealth land	Is the website displaying the land located on the register of surplus Commonwealth land up to date? Please outline what land has so far been sold under this program, and provide full details of the amount of land sold, the amount of land released and the amount of housing expected to be developed as a result.	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
54	2.2: Housing	Joyce	Building Better Regional Cities - applications	1. What is the start date for the Building Better Regional Cities Program? When will the funds actually start rolling out? 2. Has the program started taking applications? How many applications has this program received so far? Who are they? 3. How will the fund accept applications? Will they come from individual councils or RDAs?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
55	2.2: Housing	Joyce	Building Better Regional Cities - eligibility	1. Does the Department plan to publish detailed guidelines and criteria on eligibility for funding? If so, when will they be published? If not, are there any criteria for eligibility that the Department can provide the Committee? 2. Can you provide the Committee with a list of the 47 cities eligible for funding? 3. How was the figure of 30,000 decided on? Why can't cities below this size also apply for these grants?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
56	2.3: Population	Ludlam	Cost of urban sprawl	(page 113) Senator LUDLAM: Thank you. I have a couple more questions, if I may, which do not go to any particular budget line item. But they relate to the cost of sprawl, which is something that I presume you are reasonably preoccupied with. I am interested to know whether you are aware of research by Curtin University that found that for every 1,000 dwellings, the cost for infill in fringe developments is \$309 million and \$653 million respectively. The citation for that is <i>Assessing the costs of alternative development paths in Australian cities</i> by a number of researchers at Curtin University CUSP. Are you aware of that work?	113-114 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				... (page 114) Mr Sullivan: ... I would have to check on that. A member of the research group you are referring to from Curtin University was one of the participants at the roundtables that we conducted as part of the population strategy process. Senator LUDLAM: Okay.			
57	3: AAD	Birmingham	Tourists to Antarctica	Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thank you. I want to shift to some policy issues. I have previously asked about global policies and policies developed as part of treaty cooperation in regard to tourism and visitation to Antarctica. I gather that there was some work taking place at that level. Ms Maddock, are you or others able to update me with regard to what policies have been put in place through treaty discussions and what the continued growth in numbers of tourists to Antarctica is? Ms Maddock: I will quickly find the growth in numbers, because they are probably a little out of date. There were 21,622 passengers who landed ashore in 2009-10. That was about 20 per cent down on the previous season. Lots of people go without landing because they are on bigger ships and both the Antarctic Treaty parties and the shipping association have agreed that large ships will not land people. There were about 15,000 people on that in 2009-10. The big ones do not go for very long. The ones that put people ashore are now subject to a range of restrictions, some of which I outlined before. If you go ashore, you have to do proper environmental impact statements beforehand. You go ashore in groups of no more than 10 people. You do not have more than one ship in an area at one time so you are not putting too much pressure on it. You have to have proper insurance and you have to agree that you will bear the insurance costs of damage, including environmental damage, if anything happens as a result of the cruise ship. The other big development— but it is not for us; it is for, I think, AMSA—is the development of the polar code in maritime law. It goes to questions of what ships need to have to be travelling below 60 degrees. That goes to things like the fuel they can carry, the way in way they have lifeboats and a range of other things. The polar code is obviously for both poles. It is being negotiated through the maritime organisations, which we do not represent, but we obviously have close relationships with them. Senator BIRMINGHAM: On notice, if you could provide me with a bit of a summary of the conditions and safety arrangements that have been put in place as part of the tourism management strategies through the treaty process, that would be helpful. Thank you. ...	116 and 117 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
58	3: AAD	Birmingham	Antarctic Treaty Meeting	Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thank you. When is the next major meeting or forum of the Antarctic Treaty? Ms Maddock: It is the Antarctic Treaty meeting in Buenos Aires starting on 20 June. Senator BIRMINGHAM: Okay. What are the lead items for decision at the 20 June meeting—or is that agenda still to be determined? Ms Maddock: I retire on the 16th, Senator. Can I come back to you on what they are, because I just do not have them with me at the moment.	117 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Certainly, yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: This is your last estimates.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you could provide those on notice to us, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Ms Maddock: Yes, sure.</p>			
59	4.1: WED	Xenophon	On-farm irrigation efficiency program	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Can you tell us more about the on-farm irrigation infrastructure—that second avenue for getting funding. How much is set aside for that in the basin?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: Across the southern connected system and the Lachlan there is \$300 million for that program. The first round allocation is \$100 million of funding and there was a grant for the South Australian NRM Board in that. I do not have the figures. I can go and grab them.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: On notice is fine, if you could. Are we talking about individual irrigators being assisted with on-farm infrastructure?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: Yes, through a delivery partner. A delivery partner brings a batch of projects together.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Such as the Central Irrigation Trust?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: In South Australia our current delivery partner is the South Australian NRM Board. They put in for a batch of on-farm projects each involving individual farmers, as a parcel of works, and they received a grant as the successful delivery partner.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: On notice, could I get a comparison about the take-up rate among South Australian irrigators of Water for the Future, the water efficiency fund and the on-farm fund compared to the take-up for other parts of the basin?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: In terms of a proportion of the entitlement base?</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Harwood: Yes, we can do that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 78)</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: And we are a couple of years into it? Is this the third financial year or the second?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: For the actual program up and running I think it is about 18 months, but I would take that on notice, from when the first call for applications was made for round 1, so the start of the program in terms of when people could apply.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: So when did it start—2009-10? Was that the first year?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: Probably, yes.</p>	77 and 78 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
60	4.1: WED	Joyce	Twynam water entitlements purchased	<p>Mr Freeman: The MDBA has always considered the issue of offset. Even in the guide we were saying there were some 600 gegalitres that had already been acquired through buyback and infrastructure projects that could be attributed to any reduction. So that has always been on the table. The Commonwealth has continued to purchase water and I believe the 800 figure would be fairly accurate. There probably is 800 gegalitres that could be used to offset any reduction that needs to occur.</p>	80 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>...</p> <p>Ms Harwood: Senator Joyce, your question was the volume of the entitlements purchased under the Twynam purchase?</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: That is right. We have 800 gegalitres put aside and I want to know how much of the Twynam purchase is in that 800.</p> <p>Ms Harwood: The entitlement value—I could get the precise figures on notice—is of the order of 240 gegalitres. But converted to long-term yield, which is what you need to acquit it against recovery targets, it is around 107 gegalitres.</p>			
61	4.1: WED	Birmingham	SRWUIP – water saving infrastructure	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Of the \$5.6 billion allocated to this program, how much of it will be spent on water saving infrastructure projects in the Murray Darling Basin that will result in the provision of additional holdings to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: There are a number of elements in that. We may not be able to go to them because—</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: They are actually all of the elements that formed a part of the initial model for this type of funding.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: There is no doubt that the majority of funding is allocated in that way. There are some projects here that are environmental projects in nature that are funded through the SPPs that can actually have the impact of assisting in the overall health of the basin and, indeed, may be taken into account by the MDBA in determining sustainable diversion limits into the future.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you cannot provide that answer now, you can provide it on notice. Yes, there are a number of elements to the question, but the reality is that, from 2007, when this funding was first announced and put on the table, they were all meant to be the elements that this funding was directed at. Water would be returned to the environment and held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. They would be projects in the Murray Darling Basin. They would all go towards offsetting what the basin plan achieved. Since then, it seems as if definitions have been broadened somewhat.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: I would certainly indicate that that is the lion's share of it. To give you a precise figure would be to—</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Senator Joyce takes delight in that.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: 'Somewhat' is somewhat polite.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Joyce, five more minutes.</p>	103-104 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
62	4.1: WED	Joyce	Orange City Pipeline	<p>Senator JOYCE: When were the decisions made to include these costs in SRWUIP?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: Which ones—the due diligence and conveyancing?</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: The due diligence. To be honest, most of these—and I will ask you in two phases—payments look a lot like just transfers to the state. I want to know when we decided to make these transfers. When was the decision made to put in the Orange city pipeline? When was the decision made to use money that predominantly people believed was supporting the return of water to the Murray Darling Basin but that we now find is</p>	104 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>supporting irrigation in Tasmania? I have no problems with Tasmania; I just never thought they were part of the basin. And when does 'and infrastructure' become such a powerful term that we can actually include things that have nothing to do with the rural. Orange is not rural. Orange is a regional city.</p> <p>Ms Harwood: I will take some of those, Senator. The Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program is a national program. Nearly all the funding is committed inside the basin, but in its construct it is not confined to the basin and it has elements of rural water infrastructure expenditure in both Tasmania and Western Australia. In relation to the Orange city pipeline, from memory, that was agreed between the Commonwealth and the New South Wales governments in July 2010. I would have to take on notice the point at which we—</p>			
63	4.1: WED	Joyce	Sustainable Rural Water Use & infrastructure program	<p>Senator JOYCE: What about enabling activities? We have program spend to 28 February 2011 as \$15.2 million. What are enabling activities? Are they rural, are they infrastructure or are they unexplainable?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: I am sorry, but could you tell me what you are referring to?</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: I am referring to attachment A, Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Legislative Committee, answers to questions on notice, sustainability, environment, water, population and communities portfolio additional estimates, Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program, program project and, under that guise, enabling activities, \$15.2 million. What is it? What are we getting for \$15.2 million? Is it rural? Is it infrastructure? What are we talking about with enabling activities, because we have \$15.2 million worth of them?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: I will have to take that on notice. It could be supporting technical assessments and consultancies that we do to assist in the assessment of projects and things of that sort. But I will take it on notice and we will give you a breakdown.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: If you are thinking of taking that on notice, you can also take on notice a breakdown of due diligence and conveyancing costs; a breakdown of meter test facilities for—</p> <p>Ms Harwood: I will explain on the due diligence that that is ours—</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: You can take down a breakdown for water for future communications as well.</p> <p>Ms Harwood: Yes.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: You can take down a breakdown for basin plan activities for \$59 million. You can give me a breakdown of compliance and enforcement for \$60 million. I want a further analysis of Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder management of water holdings for \$195.8 million. I also want to know exactly when the decision was made for the Orange city pipeline. How is the Lithgow to Clarence colliery water transfer project seen as rural and fitted into this project? That will do. That will keep you busy. Do that.</p> <p>CHAIR: I am sure they are just looking for this type of work.</p>	105 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
64	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Menindee Lakes (Birmingham)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What progress has been made on identifying and securing a safe alternative source of drinking water for Broken Hill? 2. Has further hydrological work identified in the MoU between the Commonwealth and Government of NSW on Menindee Lakes been completed? 3. Does the Government still expect reengineering works will result in water savings of 200GL? 4. When does the Australian Government expect reengineering works will begin? 5. The MoU between the Commonwealth and New South Wales Government on Menindee Lakes identifies October 2010 as the expected completion of several key steps in securing agreement for reengineering works. Please detail reasons for the delays in completing these steps. When does the Government now believe each of these steps will be completed? 6. Has there been further correspondence between the Department and New South Wales Government regarding the operation of the MoU? If so, please provide copies? 7. Has the Joint Steering Committee agreed on recommended terms for amending the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement? If not, when is agreement expected? What is the cause of this delay? Have the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments sought or secured agreement with the Basin States for amendment to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement? If not, when is agreement expected to be sought? Have the Commonwealth and New South Wales Government agreed on the volume and character of the water entitlement to be transferred to the Commonwealth? If not, when is agreement expected? What are current impediments to reaching agreement? 	Written	22/08/11 + 2 att'ts	25/08/11
65	4.1: WED	Joyce	Coal Seam Gas – Queensland feasibility study	What is the Queensland Coal Seam Gas Feasibility Study? What is its total cost? When will it be complete?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
66	4.1: WED	Joyce	Menindee Lakes (Joyce)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has the \$21.1 million to 28 February 2011 on the Menindee Lakes Project been spent on? 2. What is the status of the Menindee Lakes agreement with the NSW Government? When does the Government expect that agreement to be finalised? 3. Has the Government made any progress in finding an aquifer near Menindee Lakes to supply water to Broken Hill? 4. When will we actually see work begin on Menindee Lakes? 5. Does the Government still expect to spend \$300 million on urban water projects in regional NSW from the \$400 million allocated to the Menindee Lakes project? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
67	4.1: WED	Joyce	Northern Victoria Irrigation	What is the status of the Commonwealth funding for the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Renewal Project				
68	4.1: WED	Joyce	SRWUIP – funding allocation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why is there \$400 million less in the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure budget compared to the Department's additional estimates in November last year? Which projects will be deferred as a result of this \$400 million reduction in spending? Can you provide us some information on when you think NSW projects will receive additional funding under the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program? Has the Government used any of its funds from the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program to pay for the fixed or other charges associated with the Government's water entitlement holding ? If so, how much has been spent? Are there plans in the future to fund these costs from this program and, if so, how much will these costs be? Are there any plans for the funds from this program to be used to fund environmental works and measures? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
69	4.1: WED	Joyce	SRWUIP - review	Is the Auditor-General currently conducting a review of the Sustainable Rural Water use and Infrastructure program? If so, when is this report due?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
70	4.1: WED	Joyce	SRWUIP – water saving projects	The Department has spent \$518 million on this program to 28 February 2011 to save 21 gegalitres. That is a cost of about \$25,000 per megalitre. How much money has the Government actually spent on projects that will return water to the Basin under this program?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
71	4.1: WED	Joyce	Strengthenin g Basin Communities program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why has there only been \$5.7 million spent on the Strengthening Basin Communities program? What is the status of this program? Is it still taking applications? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
72	4.1: WED	Joyce	Sunraysia Irrigation Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is the status of the Sunraysia irrigation project? Will it still definitely receive funding? What has the \$200,000 spent on the Sunraysia project to 28 February been spent on so far? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
73	4.1: WED	Joyce	Water buybacks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How much has been spent on water buybacks under the Restoring the Balance program to date? There are reports that buybacks in the northern Basin have been undersubscribed. Is this true? By how much have the tenders been undersubscribed? Are there any plans for the government to increase its benchmark prices in response to under subscriptions? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
74	4.1: WED	Joyce	Water Group staffing	I see you are adding 19 extra staff next financial year. What will these staff be doing? What is the extra value you are going to generate for the taxpayer for these additional	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				staff?			
75	4.1: WED	Joyce	Water purchase plan	In the advice the Department gave to the Minister after the election it proposed to announce a refined “purchase plan” as soon as the Guide is released. Was that purchase plan released?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
76	4.1: WED	Heffernan	Water Licensing Contract	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Dept provide details of the tender process for firms obtaining the Water Licensing contract. 2. How many firms tendered for that contract? Please list. 3. What was the reason for appointing Flashman Chalker from Nyngan to the contract? 4. Did Jamie Fisher and Associates from Nyngan tender for the contract? 5. Please provide the names of the employees of Flashman Chalker. 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
77	4.1: WGD	Joyce	Funding for Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder	<p>(page 94) Senator JOYCE: I am curious because, when I look through the maximum government commitment, which was provided in the additional estimates in February 2011, there is a break-up into two categories: infrastructure projects and analysis. We have allocated \$195.8 million to this—that is the maximum government commitment. I cannot for the life of me work out why we need to allocate that much money to it. What is it doing? Mr Robinson: That allocation is funding that meets the fees and charges for managing the water entitlements. ... (page 95) Senator JOYCE: How big are the administration charges in that maximum commitment? ... Mr Robinson: There are no administration charges in terms of departmental charges of the department itself, because the legislation says that the normal departmental salary costs, for example, have to be funded from the core government program. There are other elements than the fees. I mentioned the fees and charges. They are the lion's share of what we do, but there are some delivery costs as well, pumping in water. These costs are substantial in regulated parts of the system. They are not all that big in the unregulated parts of the system, but down south, where there is more actual infrastructure in terms of managing irrigation water—not private infrastructure but owned by the infrastructure corporations—the fees are much larger. Senator JOYCE: Even on your figures—\$5.2 million multiplied over eight years; two eights are 16 and five eights are 40, so it is \$41.6 million—can you give us a better breakdown? I am genuinely curious about how we ended up with the figure. These figures sort of float onto the book, and people just accept them but, my gosh, there would be a lot of people out there who would think that is a lot of money. That is almost \$200 million, a lot of money. People would be very interested in exactly how we got to that. Would we be able to get a better break-up of that?</p>	94 and 95 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				Mr Robinson: Yes, we can take that on notice. It is an estimate of an eight-year program. It includes the fees and charges, some delivery costs, costs of monitoring and evaluation and the like, but we can give you a broad break-up. It will vary across the eight years. We are lower this year than we originally budgeted. It will vary across the eight years as we go through it, depending on water availability and how we are operating and the fees and charges which are applied by all the irrigation corporations and water management bodies.			
78	4.1: WGD	Birmingham	Eastern Adelaide Stormwater Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is undertaking the feasibility study? If no one has been appointed, when will they be? What will this feasibility study cost? When will it be completed? What are the terms of reference? 2. What is the composition of the Eastern Regional Alliance? Please detail all meetings and attendees to date in regard to the Eastern Adelaide Stormwater project. 	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11
79	4.1: WGD	Birmingham	National Urban Water and Desalination Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has final agreement with and final payment to the South Australian Government been made for the Adelaide Desalination Plant project? What are the milestones the South Australian Government must achieve ahead of payment of the \$228 million by the Commonwealth Government? What required milestones have been achieved to date? 2. Has agreement been reached between the Commonwealth and SA Government on requirements regarding reducing Adelaide's draw on the Murray in return for Federal funding for this project? If so, please detail. If not, why not? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
80	4.1: WGD	Joyce	Adelaide Desalination project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When will the government complete payments to the South Australian government for the Adelaide Desalination project? 2. Have payments under this program been held up for any reason? If so, why? Have any milestones been missed? If so, which ones? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
81	4.1: WGD	Joyce	Environmental water holdings special account	What are the expenses under the item 'Environmental Water Holdings Special Account'? How much water have you assumed the environmental water holds over the forward estimates to generate these costs?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
82	4.1: WGD	Joyce	Expenditure on water programs	<p>Can the Department please provide a list of expenditure under each of the following programs for all financial years beginning 2007-08, and include the most up to date spending for the current financial year. Can the Department also provide forecast or projected for these programs over the forward estimates?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Restoring the Balance b. Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure c. National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns d. National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative e. Green Precincts Fund 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
83	4.1: WGD	Joyce	National Urban Water and	After reducing the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan by \$85.5 million is there funds left unallocated in this plan?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Desalination Plan				
84	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Water for the future communication campaign	<p>Senator JOYCE: \$8.5 million.</p> <p>Mr Slatyer: The funding is partly connected to the campaign about Water for the Future that the government has conducted and it is partly to support broader communications activities around water use efficiency and other messages that we believe are important to convey publicly.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: But what messages do you have to spend \$8.5 million conveying that you cannot do—you are a capable person, Mr Slatyer. You do not need to spend \$8 million to do it; you could just put out a media release and do it through your department. You do not have to spend \$8 million communicating.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Just get me a better break-up. Say, 'Mate, we've got a million bucks in stamps and there's \$500,000 in envelopes.' What exactly are we getting for \$8.5 million?</p> <p>CHAIR: Probably mouse mats!</p> <p>Senator Conroy: We could probably take that on notice rather than just reading it all out.</p> <p>Mr Slatyer: Yes, I can get a detailed break-up. We are happy to provide that.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: I thought you would take it on notice, because it has got me bushed and I have no idea what you are doing with it.</p>	96 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
85	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Advertising – water	Is any money allocated to advertising programs associated with water programs? If so, what are those allocations and what are they going to be used for?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
86	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Coal Seam Gas – regulatory powers	What powers does the Commonwealth have to regulate coal seam gas, in and outside of the Murray-Darling Basin?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
87	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Coal Seam Gas – water aspects	<p>I want to ask some questions on the Water Group Advice on EPBC Act Referrals released last year.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Can you just provide a summary of what the Water Group's main concerns about these proposals (QGC, Santos-Petronas and AP LNG) were? You mention that there was a "general level of uncertainty" associated with these proposals. Are you any more certain about them now? Can you expand a bit on your concerns of the impact of coal seam gas on highly productive agricultural land? Does the Water Group have any concerns over the use of fracking in coal seam gas development? What are the risks of the chemicals used in the fracking technique from contaminating the water in aquifers? I just want you to explain in more detail a quote which says: "The impact of establishing such a de-pressurised zone between two pressurised systems is 	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>unknown. <i>There does not appear to be an example anywhere else in the world of such a situation being produced – a fact acknowledged by AP LNG staf at their presentation on 11 August 2010. Hence, any impacts can only be inferred.</i></p> <p>Are we any more sure of knowing what the impacts are? What provisions are in place to protect against negative effects from occurring?</p> <p>7. You mention in your report that you have "serious concerns" about the "long-term sustainability of the GAB". Can you outline what those concerns are?</p> <p>8. How much water is likely to be taken out of the GAB as a result of these three projects?</p> <p>9. Has the Water Group looked at estimates of how much water could be taken out of the GAB taking into account all current and potential development of coal seam gas resources?</p> <p>10. What does the Department view as a sustainable level of take from the GAB for the coal seam gas industry?</p> <p>11. A report under section 255A of the Water Act was commissioned following the Water Group's report. That report did not seem to use your estimates of water us (such as up to 45,000 GL) instead relying on the work of the project proponents. Why didn't that work pick up on your estimates?</p> <p>12. When you say that "the total estimated volume of groundwater to be produced (and lost to the GAB as a whole) is most likely in the order of 14,035 to 27,411 GL." What do you mean by "lost"?</p> <p>13. Have you done further work on the impact of these projects in particular and the development of the coal seam gas industry in general?</p> <p>14. What will be the water group's continuing involvement in assessing the impact of coal seam gas?</p> <p>15. Have the proponents of those three projects done any further work on the impacts of their developments? Is that work publicly available?</p> <p>16. Can you provide to this Committee any additional work the Water Group has done on the risks of Coal Seam Gas developments?</p>			
88	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Coal Seam Gas and the Basin Plan	How does the development of the coal seam gas industry interact with the development of the Basin Plan?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
89	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Government response to Windsor Inquiry and Basin Plan	<p>1. Is the Government planning to respond to the House of Representatives inquiry into the Murray-Darling Basin?</p> <p>If so, will that response come out before the proposed Basin Plan?</p> <p>2. Will the Government respond to the proposed Basin Plan as soon as it comes out?</p> <p>Is the Government planning a policy response alongside the release of the Basin Plan?</p>	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
90	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Water for	In the advice the Department gave to the Minister after the election the Department	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			the Future review	mentioned that a high-level review of Water for the Future programs is occurring. Has this review completed? What were its findings? Have any changes occurred as the result of this review?			
91	4.1: WRD	Siewert	National Water Commission review	<p>1. Why hasn't the Department appointed an Independent Reviewer?</p> <p>2. Does this mean that the review will be conducted over a very short timeline? How consultative will it be?</p> <p>3. Do we need to wait for the National Water Commission to finish its review of the National Water Initiative before an independent review of the NWC is conducted? If yes, Why?</p>	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
92	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Dams	Has the Department done any work to identify potential sites for new dams?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
93	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Basin Plan testing committee	<p>(page 60)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: ... Is there a duration of appointment for this committee, or is it expected that it only lasts up until finalisation of the draft Basin Plan or finalisation of the Basin Plan?</p> <p>Mr Freeman: I would have to refer back to the instrument of appointment. I cannot recall. I could take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: You do not know whether this committee will continue after the draft Basin Plan is released?</p> <p>Mr Freeman: I am not sure of the term of engagement of the testing committee. I would have to have a look at the instrument of appointment.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If somebody is able to provide us with that answer while we are going along, because we are here for a few hours, that would be helpful. ...</p>	60-61 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
94	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Resignation of Mr Cosier	<p>(page 62)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: How many of the meetings had Mr Cosier attended before he resigned?</p> <p>Mr Freeman: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Did Mr Cosier provide a written statement of departure? To whom did he resign?</p> <p>Mr Freeman: Again, I would have to take that on notice. I believe there may have been an email exchange but I need to check.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Do you know who that email exchange may have been with?</p> <p>Mr Freeman: I believe it was with the chair; however, I would rather take it on notice and make sure I gave an accurate answer.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 64)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Did Mr Cosier give reasons for his resignation when he departed the testing committee?</p> <p>Mr Freeman: I would have to take that on notice so that I could actually look at the form</p>	62, 64 and 65 (25/5/11)	02/08/11 + 1 att't	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>of his resignation. As I indicated in a previous answer, I do need to check the form of his resignation and what he said in that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 65)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Is there a technical reason why you could not get the email to us today, Mr Freeman?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Conroy: As I said, I will take that on notice and see if the minister has anything he would like to add.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Had the changes to the policies that the authority is applying been presented to the testing committee at any of its meetings prior to 29 April?</p> <p>Dr MacLeod: Not to my recollection, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: No? So those changes came subsequent to Mr Cosier's resignation?</p> <p>Dr MacLeod: In terms of the policy proposals, the authority has been considering these over a period of time. I am not able to provide details of when they may have resolved these matters and its relationship to the date of 29 April. I would have to refer back and again take it on notice to provide you with a specific answer on the interaction of those dates.</p>			
95	4: MDBA	Joyce	Work undertaken by KPMG	<p>Senator JOYCE: When they provide you with an invoice, do they provide you with billing hours and what they have actually done.</p> <p>Dr McLeod: I do not have that information to hand.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: How about, Mr Nicholas?</p> <p>Mr Nicholas: Typically you would get an invoice with billing hours, yes. It would identify the number of hours that were undertaken by each of the parties to the contract.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: What are they billing out at?</p> <p>Mr Nicholas: I do not have that information with me, I am sorry. They would have hourly rates based on their expertise.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: I bet they have hourly rates.</p> <p>Mr Nicholas: Yes, they do. That is standard for consultancies.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Can you give an example of what sort of hourly rate that would be?</p> <p>Mr Nicholas: I do not have those details with me in relation to that contract, so I think it would not be appropriate to speculate about what they might be. We would need to look at the contract.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Nicholas: We can take that on notice, yes.</p>	87 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
96	4: MDBA	Joyce	Environmental works and measures	<p>Senator JOYCE: Can the MDBA provide the committee with a list of environmental works and measures projects that they are considering?</p> <p>Mr Freeman: Yes, we can.</p>	88 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				Senator JOYCE: Just take that on notice.			
97	4: MDBA	Joyce	MDBA staff surveys	<p>Senator JOYCE: Have you done staff surveys?</p> <p>Mr Nicholas: Yes, we have.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: What do they say? Are they all happy?</p> <p>Mr Nicholas: There are various comments about how we are operating and issues that staff may see as points for improvement.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Can you provide the committee with a copy of the surveys? Obviously we do not want to know about the names.</p> <p>Mr Nicholas: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	88 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
98	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Communications since release of Guide to Proposed Basin Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What communications has the MDBA had since the release of the Guide with state and federal governments regarding the timetable for implementation of the Plan? Please provide lists of and copies of all relevant correspondence and meetings. 2. Please detail all individuals or groups who have been consulted on the policy decisions made by the Authority in preparation for the Draft Basin Plan. 	Written	02/08/11 + 1 att't	25/08/11
99	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Legal advice since 28 January 2011	Has the Authority received or requested any legal advice in relation to balancing the needs of the environment, communities and rural economies under the Water Act 2007, since Mr Knowles was appointed as Chair?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
100	4: MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA Consultancies	Please detail all consultancies (including cost) undertaken since the release of the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan (the Guide).	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
101	4: MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many staff have left the MDBA since the release of the Guide? 2. How many staff at SES level have left the MDBA since the release of the Guide? What positions did any SES level staff that have left hold? 3. Have any hydrologists left the MDBA since the release of the guide? How many hydrologists does the MDBA employ? Was the MDBA, at any stage, without any hydrologists in its employ? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
102	4: MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA Sub-committees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please detail all members of the Basin Plan testing committee and Proposed Basin Plan working group and any other consultancy or advisory groups operating in relation to the Basin Plan process. Please also detail former members of these groups who have left their roles on these groups. 2. Please provide details of all meetings held and who was in attendance. 3. How much is each member of each committee or group paid? 4. What travel or advisory costs are associated with each committee or group? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
103	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Socio-economic analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When will the Lower Lakes Social Impact Case Study and Assessment of the Local Community Impacts of Proposals for the Murray-Darling Basin Plan be presented to the Authority? When will these studies be publicly released? 2. Has socio-economic analysis considered reductions at levels other than those 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				recommended in the Guide?			
104	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Water allocations – SA storage rights	Have draft schedules to provide and account for South Australia's storage rights been prepared? Has any state Minister objected to these schedules? When will they be finalised? When will they be released?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
105	4: MDBA	Joyce	Authority decisions and minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could the Authority please provide this Committee with all the decisions it has made since February 22 in accordance with s 198 of the Water Act which requires the Authority to keep records of all of its decisions? 2. Could you please provide the minutes to any of the meetings the Authority has held since 22 February 2011? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
106	4: MDBA	Joyce	Briefings provided by MDBA	Could you please provide the Committee with a list of the briefings the MDBA has given to the Minister for Water or his / her staff, and the Prime Minister, or his / her staff, in the last 3 months?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
107	4: MDBA	Joyce	Hydrologic indicator sites	<p>I note that in response to a request for the meeting notes for the Authority meetings on 7 December 2011, the Authority agreed to undertake "independent advice" on whether the environmental objectives and flow regimes were appropriate at 108 hydrologic indicator sites and whether additional environmental water can be practically delivered to these sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How has the MDBA sought this advice? 2. Who is it receiving it from? 3. When will it be complete? 4. Can you provide a copy of it to this committee? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
108	4: MDBA	Joyce	MDBA Board member	Does the Authority know of any plans to replace Board member Dr Diana Day?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
109	4: MDBA:	Cameron	Native Fish Strategy	<p>Ms Swirepik: Carp are very difficult to control. I have been involved on and off with carp control issues for probably 15 years. When you have a pest species like that, it is almost impossible to eradicate them, so there have been various efforts put into carp control. The biggest investment that has been made by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the former commission is in the CRC for invasive animals. There is a daughterless carp program that we have been putting funds into. It is approximately \$1 million, I think, a year—I would probably have to confirm that figure—over 10 years. That is to try and get a genetic structure, if you like, that will actually stop carp having anything except for male offspring. That is probably one of the biggest hopes in a big biocontrol type program. We do a lot of carp screening through the fishways on the Murray River and that removes a lot of carp. I think David Dreverman might be able to give some figures, but that sort of manual removal effort is continuing in the meantime.</p> <p>CHAIR: Do you have a figure for the overall cost of this program?</p> <p>Ms Swirepik: Of the Native Fish Strategy?</p>	107 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Swirepik: I could not tell you. I would have to take that on notice. I know that it has varied between approximately \$2½ million and \$5½ million over the last couple of years. So the allocation that it gets is dependent on what our partner governments sign off in our corporate plan.</p>			
110	4: NWC	Xenophon	Stakeholder forum and biennial assessment	<p>1. Last estimates, you mentioned that you would be holding a stakeholder forum discussion in March. Did this go ahead, and can you provide me with some information on who attended? Was there an open invitation to attend to anyone who had submitted, or was the forum invitation only?</p> <p>2. Is the Commission planning any further forums?</p> <p>3. Can the Commission provide any information about when the third biennial assessment will be released?</p>	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
111	5.1: HD	Ludlam	Heritage division funding	<p>Senator LUDLAM: No. Overall the total program expenses, we start with a figure of 34 and we end with a figure of 22. So can you draw my attention to the largest component of the drop and explain what accounts for them.</p> <p>Ms Dripps: Certainly. There is \$3 million in the Distinctively Australian program between 2010-11 and 2011-12.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Yes, we have covered that one.</p> <p>Ms Dripps: If you look over on the left-hand side of the page under program 5.1, we have 'Revenues from independent sources' of \$1.9 million. Also in the government's budget announcement but not appearing in the PBS because it is funding from AusAID is the \$4.5 million for the Kokoda Track. I do not have a calculator with me, Senator, but I believe that brings it pretty close. With productivity dividends and suchlike there is a general trend in a negative direction, but those are the key things that explain the differences between last year and the years looking forward.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I mean, 31 per cent is a pretty severe efficiency dividend. Last year the budget was cut by 18 per cent when program support was revised from \$24 million to \$19 million. I wonder whether, to cut this short, you could table for us a summary of funding to the heritage division over the last decade?</p> <p>Ms Dripps: We can certainly do that. What I would also add is that because of the potential in heritage to invest substantially or less substantially in property maintenance and improvement, there have been substantial peaks and troughs in the heritage budget over the last 10 years. For example, with \$63 million put in through the jobs fund as an economic stimulus measure a couple of years ago.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I am fairly familiar with that one, because I think we put that there. I do not expect you to have all of this with you at the moment, but if you could maybe provide that longer range summary. Officers who have appeared at this committee before have tended to defend the cuts and explain them away as not really being cuts, but I do not think it is really deniable that the division has suffered quite severely over the last decade or so. ...</p>	12-13 (25/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
112	5.1: HD	Ludlam	Emergency assessment of the Dampier Archipelago	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I might put a couple of these questions on notice and move on. While we're on the subject of the AHC, can we get an update on the emergency assessment of the Dampier Archipelago site that was announced by the minister a couple of months ago?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Murphy: The department has briefed the Australian Heritage Council on the work that was requested by the Senate. On behalf of the council we have called for heritage experts and we are running a market test of consultants that could do this assessment. That has gone out. I think it is due this Friday. We will then look at the applications that come in and select a consultant.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 16)</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Can you undertake to take on notice when you can provide us with a work plan for that review—dates, times, budgets and so on? I understand that there must be some of that material in existence by now.</p> <p>Mr Murphy: We are happy to do that, Senator.</p>	15-16 (25/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11
113	5.1: HD	Ludlam and Siewert	Myrtle Rust and Fraser Island	<p>Senator LUDLAM: ... This question is on behalf of Senator Rachel Siewert. What are World Heritage managers doing to keep myrtle rust out of Fraser Island, because there has been an incursion at Hervey Bay that potentially impacts on the World Heritage values?</p> <p>Ms Dripps: That might be a question we have to ask of the management agency.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Yes. I know that probably sounds like it is coming from left field. Is there any info you can provide?</p> <p>Mr Murphy: I would imagine that the major activities here are by the Queensland government. As you know, we do not have operational responsibility for the management of parks in Queensland.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: We are happy to take it on notice and see if there is any further information.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I do not want to come away with the impression that the Commonwealth is doing nothing at all if that is not the case. Mr Murphy, is there anything you want to add?</p> <p>Mr Murphy: There is funding that goes to Fraser Island under the Caring for our Country grants. The major funding at the moment from the Commonwealth is to fund the executive officer for the advisory council. I know that there is also some funding to do with myrtle rust but I am not sure if that is specific to Fraser Island, so I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: What I am asking you to take on notice is specifically Fraser Island but particularly myrtle rust and whether you are aware of what is going on there as they relate to the World Heritage values and as they relate to Commonwealth responsibilities for preserving the values of that site. If there is nothing, that is fine and I will move on. But can you take on notice any activity at all that the Commonwealth has undertaken, whether on staffing or resourcing or on any level at all.</p>	16 (25/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11
114	5.1: HD	Abetz	Macquarie	<p>Ms Dripps: There may be some value in us taking on notice the question of what</p>	19 (25/5/11)	22/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Island baiting	<p>happened to the remainder of the bait. I am not certain I could come to the same conclusion in terms of it having necessarily been wasted. It may be being kept for future use. It may not all have been wasted.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I was told that due to spoilage it is expected that about 70 tonnes of the bait left on the island will be used.</p> <p>Dr Terrill: In terms of Ms Dripps' intervention, the answer to the question does allow room that not all of the bait may have been left on the island. That is something we probably do need to take on notice and check. It does record that 70 tonnes of the bait left on the island would be used, but that does not definitively lock out that that was all of the remaining bait. Can we take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: By all means. I think it is pretty clear. Can you then tell us exactly how many tonnes were spoilt?</p> <p>Ms Dripps: Yes.</p> <p>Dr Terrill: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: And what has happened to what I suspect is 210 tonnes of spoiled bait? Does it have to be transported off the island? What is the cost of doing so et cetera? You can take all that on notice. It would seem that just the capital cost of purchase of the bait, about \$750,000, has been wasted due to spoilage. About 70 tonnes of the bait will be used this year. Do we have a better figure than 70 tonnes now that we are starting to use it again?</p> <p>Mr Murphy: I do not have that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could take that on notice for me, Mr Murphy, I would be obliged.</p> <p>...</p>			
115	5.1: HD	Boswell	Wild rivers	<p>Senator BOSWELL: Anyhow, let me put the question on notice. In Senator Fielding's speech to the Senate on 12 May, 2011, in relation to wild rivers, he said that the federal government had agreed to fund a professional services resource to assist people to get an application for permit approval. Can you detail how much funding the federal government has agreed to provide; what the nature of the professional services resource will be; whether the Commonwealth will be providing the services; and where the resource will be based?</p>	22 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
116	5.1: HD	Boswell	Wild Rivers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What involvement does the Department of Sustainability, Environment Water, Population And Communities have with the Queensland state government on the Lake Eyre Basin Wild Rivers program? Does the department have to be notified? If so what is the process of notification? 2. In 1993 the then Prime Minister, Paul Keating, announced his intention to proceed with the Lake Eyre basin world heritage listing. In 1988 the Lake Eyre society recommended that Lake Eyre basin for world heritage listing. Has your department done or has been asked to make any assessment or done any work on the world heritage registration on of Lake Eyre basin? 3. Recently Minister for Sustainability, Tony Burke, has issued a media statement 	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>saying he has pushed the pause button on listing the Cape York Wild Rivers. What status does the Cape York Wild Rivers have in your department? Is the department doing any further work or making any further assessment on Wild Rivers?</p> <p>4. Has the department notified the World Heritage secretariat that the listing application will not be proceeded with? What is the status of the application?</p> <p>5. In preparing the commonwealth interdepartmental committee's submission to the House of Representatives Economic committee inquiry into indigenous economic development and the Wild Rivers environmental management bill, there were thirteen different Commonwealth government agencies involved in the preparation of this report. What meetings occurred with indigenous people individually and in groups of Queensland indigenous people, Queensland state government officers and others in preparing this report? What are the dates and times of these meetings?</p>			
117	5.2: AWD	Cameron	Koalas in Bermagui	<p>CHAIR: Thank you. The other issue that came before the committee was this question of Bermagui. One of the issues you have raised in your report is that there was a lack of consistent, high—quality demographic data. Then you said you had to have a considered interpretation of the available data. Can you take on notice—I will be asking the same question at the hearing—what you used to consider the data and what were the drivers of your interpretation? Is that clear?</p> <p>Dr Purdie: No. The first part, I confess, is not.</p> <p>CHAIR: What were the drivers that you used? I am trying to work this out myself. How did you interpret, basically? What was the process you used to interpret?</p> <p>Dr Purdie: Okay, yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: Is that clear?</p> <p>Dr Purdie: Yes.</p>	43 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
118	5.2: AWD	Cameron	Risk of extinction	<p>CHAIR: This is my last question before I move on. I have lots of questions on this because the committee is still meeting. As a scientist in your field, what is normally done if a plant in a certain area will become extinct? Would you expect government to try to stop the extinction within an area?</p> <p>Dr Purdie: If I were giving advice on this committee—</p> <p>CHAIR: That is not what I am asking. I am asking you, from a general scientific point of view, whether you would want that extinction of a plant in a certain area stopped.</p> <p>Ms Dripps: Senator, isn't that a question of government policy?</p> <p>CHAIR: No. It is a question of science whether a plant becomes extinct or not.</p> <p>Dr Purdie: I think it is a question of policy because, with any species, to some extent it depends on how many resources can be thrown at it.</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I will take that on notice for you, Senator Cameron, and put it to the minister's office.</p>	44 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
119	5.2: AWD	Wortley	Koalas on Kangaroo	<p>Senator WORTLEY: I have one question. Can you explain the situation on Kangaroo Island at the moment? I know you touched on it briefly before.</p>	44 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Island	<p>Dr Purdie: This is a plant person's view of it. Koalas were translocated to Kangaroo Island. I think, from memory, it never had koalas there naturally. They were translocated there. They had an ideal habitat, presumably because there are very few predators. The population began to increase to the extent that most of the trees on which they relied for food and habitat were dying. So they were basically eating themselves out of house and home. In 2001 the population was estimated to be from 22,000 to 27,000 koalas. That is a huge density. Because of that overbrowsing pressure, the South Australian government decided that, although it was an important area in which to retain koalas, the population had to be decreased. They did that by sterilising between 30 and 60 per cent of the population. As I understand it, they also removed a large number of the animals to the mainland.</p> <p>Senator WORTLEY: I am familiar with that. Do we know the impact of the bushfires they have had over the last few years on the koala population?</p> <p>Dr Purdie: I have no idea.</p> <p>Senator WORTLEY: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Purdie: Absolutely.</p>			
120	5.2: AWD	Siewert	Fitzgerald River National Park	<p>Senator SIEWERT: ... The EPA concluded: "It is highly likely that the proposed walk trail and use of vehicle tracks for maintenance would eventually spread phytosphthora dieback into the wilderness management zone of the Fitzgerald River National Park, specifically impacting on internationally significant environmental values present in the park. On this basis, the proposal cannot meet the EPA's environmental objectives and is considered to be environmentally unacceptable."</p> <p>Ms Dripps: I am with you now, Senator.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Have you since reconsidered, given the EPA's recommendations and the fact that the Commonwealth is investing in this infrastructure development? If I finish this, I will be next door asking infrastructure about that level of investment. What has been your response, given the EPA's response that this is environmentally unacceptable?</p> <p>Ms Dripps: We would like to look at the manner of the decision and take that question on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Have you subsequently looked at the EPA's report, which said that dieback will be spread and that it is not environmentally acceptable?</p> <p>Ms Jones: The particular manner, which I do not have in front of me, had some requirements about the management of phytosphthora. Based on the implementation of those, we did not believe that it would have a significant impact on matters of NES. So there is no current intention to review that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What evidence have you to suggest that any actions in Western Australia have been successful in stopping the spread of dieback in that park? Let us not even look at the rest of WA. That park is one of the only areas where we have a relatively</p>	45 - 46 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>small amount of dieback.</p> <p>Ms Dripps: As we have said, we do not have the decision in front of us. We would like to take on notice the question of what evidence was relied upon in forming that decision.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Okay. Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Dripps: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So you will go back and look at the evidence and then decide whether you need to reassess it or have another look at it?</p> <p>Ms Jones: Yes.</p>			
121	5.2: AWD	Heffernan	Windfarms in Southern Tablelands	<p>(page 47)</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: ... The NHMRC have provided advice which has been used by one of the proponents of the wind farms here on the Southern Tablelands in Mr Alby Schultz's electorate. I am afraid the contractor's name escapes me. There are a group of farmers in the Boorowa-Crookwell area who are concerned about the health aspects as well as the environmental hazards of what seems to be open slather wind farms. As we know, wind farms generally produce wind for 30 per cent of the day.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 48)</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: The point is that the proponent has made application for the development of God knows how many of these things over God knows how many miles, with houses and homesteads in between and a whole lot of people concerned about everything from the health aspects such as nervous complaints to the kids getting to sleep at night and there does not seem to be a process. ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: ... Is there an appropriate person or persons in the Commonwealth department that this group of concerned mums and dads could go to, to discuss their concerns with?</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: I do not think in our department. The Commonwealth health department may have some avenues for them to make representation.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Could I put a question on notice, Minister? Could I prevail on you to provide the appropriate person for these people to go and see?</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: I could certainly write to them explaining what the processes are. People might feel that it is pushing back a bit. In most of these cases, the state jurisdiction is responsible for these matters.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: I appreciate that.</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: But we could provide a helpful letter that explains our role and responsibilities and those of the state.</p>	47 and 48 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
122	5.2: AWD	Birmingham	Response to Hawke Report on EPBC Act	<p>Mr Burnett: The report was tabled on 30 October 2009.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: On 30 October 2009, and here we are on 25 May 2011 and we are still awaiting the government response. Is there any time line as to when we might see that government response?</p>	49 (25/5/11/)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Mr Burnett: The government has not announced the time line.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: I am inviting you to tell us if there is one.</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I think he is indicating that there isn't one.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: They are not the words he used, Minister.</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I will take that on notice and see if the minister would like to add anything further.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thank you, Minister.</p>			
123	5.2: AWD	Birmingham	Dugongs – breaches of EPBC Act	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: I asked some questions last night about dugongs. I was told that we needed to follow up with some others today. There have been various reports in relation to the sale of dugong bone carvings or dugong meat and the hunting of dugongs inappropriately. Is the department aware of those reports and allegations?</p> <p>Ms Webb: Yes.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: How many incidences have been investigated during this financial year?</p> <p>Ms Webb: I will have to take that one on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Have any charges been laid as a result, that you are aware of?</p> <p>Ms Webb: Not that I am aware of.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Have any referrals to police or enforcement authorities in that regard been made?</p> <p>Ms Webb: I might have to take that one on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Are there incidences that you are aware of that are still under investigation that may lead to charges being laid?</p> <p>Ms Webb: I can tell you that there are some matters under investigation. I cannot speculate as to the outcome of those matters.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: But there are still open cases?</p> <p>Ms Webb: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you could come back to us and tell us how many of those there are, that would be appreciated. With regard to other cases that have been considered this year that may no longer be under investigation, could you also detail what the rectification measures taken or steps taken to conclude those cases were....</p>	50-51 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
124	5.2: AWD	Birmingham	Crocodile Surveys	<p>Ms Callister: The way that those management arrangements work, the Commonwealth would only become involved when it is in relation to the possible export of them. The management plans are developed at the state level and those management plans tend to cover things such as the regulation of farming. They may cover things such as the harvesting of eggs and crocodile ranching and so on. That is provided to us and we assess it under the provisions of the EPBC Act to see whether it meets the necessary requirements for us to approve it as an export management program. What we would look at, though, is</p>		02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>whether we think that the numbers involved are at an appropriate level to make that harvest sustainable. That would be our assessment.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: So, in that regard, what surveys have recently been done on crocodile numbers across Queensland and the Northern Territory?</p> <p>Ms Callister: I do not have that information available. I could take that on notice, but it would be managed at the state level. We do not necessarily get updates all the time about what particular surveys they are doing at any given time, but usually the survey regime and the frequency and the types of service surveys are outlined in their management plans.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: You would have access to that data to make a type of sustainability judgments that you referred to before?</p> <p>Ms Callister: Yes, we would.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Could you provide that and an indication of how the numbers compare across the previous surveys—whatever is a reasonable length of time in terms of how you keep the data. A few years or longer would be preferable.</p>			
125	5.2: AWD	Birmingham	Crocodile status and exports	<p>(page 51)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: What is the current government policy position as to the risk of the different species of crocodile in Australia being endangered or threatened?</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 52)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you could check their listing in Australia and their status with regard to government considerations of their being endangered or not, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Ms Callister: I am pretty sure that they are not, but I would prefer to double-check.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thank you. I guess this an extension to that and to the question about population numbers. If they are not listed and are not considered to be endangered, could you indicate how close they may be. I am not sure how the metrics of these decisions work, but if you are able to give an answer as to the strength of the population and whether it is well above any type of threat of being endangered or entering a position where it might be considered for listing that would be appreciated too.</p> <p>Ms Callister: I can do that. My understanding with the crocodile populations is that they have been recovering across much of their range. There was previously quite strong harvest pressure back quite a number of decades ago. Since some of that harvest pressure, through things such as hunting and shooting has been reduced, some of the crocodile populations are increasing. But there is quite good data on that in the state management plans, so when we provide you with that information that should help clarify that for you.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: It may also be useful in terms of the value of the export industry and the use of crocodile products if you are able to equally provide some data on the volumes and values of materials related to the crocodile industry that you approve for export.</p> <p>Ms Callister: We certainly can provide information on the volume of crocodile products</p>	51 and 52 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>that we provide CITES export permits for. In relation to the value of it, that would depend on whether that is recorded in the Customs statistics in a way that we can actually pull that data out. It may be in a broader category around leathers and so on. It would depend on how that is categorised, probably in Customs data, as to whether we can provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you can provide the volume information and whatever estimates as to the value—it may just be broad estimates of industry value or something—that would be most helpful.</p>			
126	5.2: AWD	Birmingham	Flow regulators on the Goolwa channel	<p>(page 52)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: ... I will move along now to the flow regulators in the Goolwa channel and tributaries and the EPBC approvals around those. On 12 May 2009 EPBC approval with conditions was given to No. 2009/4833 relating to the Goolwa channel. One of those conditions was that the Clayton Finnis River and Currency Creek flow regulators must be decommissioned and removed by 6 May 2011 and a subsequent one was that if they are to stay longer than that then a referral was to be submitted to the department by 1 December 2009. Was there ever a variation to those conditions?</p> <p>Ms Jones: The decision of 12 May 2009 has been varied a couple of times. As you know, we have the latest submission from South Australia to vary it to extend the time for the removal of the temporary regulators.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Can you talk me through the times when it has been varied and what the variations were, please? I do not have all of those iterations before me.</p> <p>Ms Jones: I do not actually have the details of the two prior variations of that not controlled action particular manner decision before me, but I can take those on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 53)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: In terms of the previous application that is on hold, for a more permanent stay of these structures, when was it lodged?</p> <p>Ms Jones: I do not have the lodgement date, but the controlled action decision date was 18 December 2009.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: So it could be no more than 20 days prior to that that the application would have been received?</p> <p>Ms Jones: Yes, unless further information is required. On occasions—I do not know whether it was on this occasion—the clock is sometimes stopped to seek further information.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: So if the clock was stopped or if it was a full 20-day period then the South Australian government would have met the 1 December 2009 deadline for lodging an application if it did not take a full 20 days or the clock had not been stopped then they may have been a few days late? Is that a fair precis without being able to know exactly when the application was made?</p>	52, 53, and 54 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Ms Dripps: I think it might be worthwhile us taking the question of the precise date on notice.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you could. However, we are not disputing that to meet its obligations under the 12 May decision the South Australian government did have to make an application to keep them there by 1 December 2009?</p> <p>Ms Jones: That is correct.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 54)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: I am talking about the application that was declared a controlled action on 18 December which was to keep the structures in place. Do you have the details as to how long that application was to keep the structures in place for?</p> <p>Ms Jones: I do not. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Dripps: We could provide an answer that includes the date on which the key events relating to this matter occurred? Would that be helpful?</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: It would be helpful, thank you. ...</p>			
127	5.2: AWD	Birmingham	Sugarloaf Pipeline water savings	<p>Ms Webb: I have numbers for the water extracted. I do not actually have without taking on notice the savings achieved.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Do you know whether the water savings achieved exceed the water extracted?</p> <p>Ms Webb: I cannot give you an answer. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Does the audited document detail information about water that is equally available or has been returned to irrigators or to the environment?</p> <p>Ms Webb: Sorry, I do not quite understand your question.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: The initial deal as such on Sugarloaf was that there would be a three-way split: that a third of the savings generated would go to irrigators and a third would go to environmental flows and a third could be piped off to Melbourne.</p> <p>Ms Webb: The audit reports say that that condition has been complied with.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: The audit reports detail all of those volumes in terms of demonstrating compliance?</p> <p>Ms Webb: That is my understanding.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Could you also provide that information as well?</p> <p>Ms Webb: Yes.</p> <p>[in writing]</p> <p>What water savings have been identified by the Victorian Government as part of their compliance conditions for construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline?</p>	56 (25/5/11) and written	02/08/11	25/08/11
128	5.2: AWD	Birmingham	Olympic Dam	<p>Have any applications related to BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam Expansion Project and/or a planned desalination plant at Point Lowly been lodged? If so, when were they lodged? At</p>	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				what stage of consideration or approval are these applications? Is any specific consideration being given to the use of water from the Great Artesian Basin?			
129	5.2: AWD	Joyce	Coal Seam Gas – hydrological fracturing	Do you have any estimates on the use of hydrological fracturing (or fraccing) in the Surat and Bowen basins? What percentage of wells would use the technique?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
130	5.2: AWD	Joyce	Coal Seam Gas – Santos groundwater modelling	You say that the groundwater modelling provided by Santos in their EIS is "inadequate". Have they done any more work or is that still your view?	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11
131	5.2: AWD	Joyce	Coal Seam Gas approval conditions	Can the conditions that the Minister has placed on the approvals that have been given over the last 8 months be changed? If so, how would the Minister go about making that change?	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
132	5: SHFT	Birmingham	North Fort complex at North Head	Mr Bailey: It has very grand views back to the city. It is a slightly sloping site that slopes away from the road, and it has a number of rather prosaic unattractive sheds and developments from Defence use. The plans are to do a general tidy-up, remove some of the more unsympathetic additions that are there, re-landscape the area and improve the availability of car parking and basic human services—toilets and those sorts of things. But beyond that there is no major plans other than to have it open as it is now to the public at all times. Senator BIRMINGHAM: Do you have any estimate in terms of the built footprint of the site as to how much that will be reduced by in terms of getting rid of those unattractive sheds? Mr Bailey: I do not have an estimate, although I can get back to you on that.	14 (24/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
133	5: SHFT	Cameron	Trust website	CHAIR: Thanks. Mr Bailey, I am just having a look at your website trying to find what you say about the industrial heritage of Cockatoo Island and, certainly, the role of the trade union movement at Cockatoo Island, which was very influential and very important. I cannot see any of that in the sheets that go out to teachers and stuff. Or am I not just finding it? Mr Bailey: I confess that it has been a while since I have looked at that aspect of our website, so I will need to check. ... CHAIR: 'Interesting' is an understatement for Cockatoo Island. It was a key area of industrial activity in improving workers' rights—not only at Cockatoo but throughout the Sydney area. You can take this on notice: could you pool together a sort of mud map of how the industrial and trade union history of the island is remembered, and let me know why you cannot find it quickly when you go on the website, because it is a key part of Cockatoo Island. Thanks, Mr Bailey.	15 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
134	5: SHFT	Birmingham	Trust	Senator BIRMINGHAM: Mr Bailey, you rely a lot on volunteers to assist with the tours	15 and 16	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			volunteers	<p>in the different sites where you offer those tour services—is that right?</p> <p>Mr Bailey: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Are they almost exclusively volunteers?</p> <p>Mr Bailey: Almost exclusively. We have a small number of paid guides, but that dates from a period in the trust's life when we wanted to get the sites open. For occupational health and safety reasons, we could not just open the gates, so in places like Cockatoo we needed guides who could do cardiac massage and whatever else was necessary, given that it is an island. Now, whilst we still have some guides, we do rely almost exclusively on volunteers, many of whom have a historical connection with the site. You asked about North Fort. The majority of the Army volunteers who were working and giving tours at North Fort have now transferred to the trust and have become, officially, trust volunteers and they work in our volunteer program.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Do you have an estimate as to how many volunteers are involved?</p> <p>Mr Bailey: All together we have—I can give you an exact number when I go back to the office—around 230 or 240 at moment.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Please provide that on notice. ...</p>	(24/5/11)		
135	5: SHFT	Brown	Volunteers and Aboriginal values of Trust lands	<p>1. Given much of the work by the Trust is delivered by volunteers, including regeneration, propagation and replanting of native vegetation on iconic sites such as North Head:</p> <p>a) How does the Trust report on the outcomes of such volunteer efforts, and in particular what value is being attributed to those outcomes?</p> <p>b) How is the Trust showing appreciation for such efforts in long term partnership arrangements and cooperative planning approaches for their properties?</p> <p>2. How much investment is the Trust making in improving appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal cultural and natural values of the Trust lands?</p>	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11
136	5: SHFT	Fisher	Trust Board	How many Trust Board members have been appointed? Please list the members who have been appointed and when each appointment was made.	Written	22/08/11	25/08/11
137	5: SSD	Ludlam	ERA radiation specialists	<p>Senator LUDLAM: ... There has obviously been quite a bit of discussion about the shortage of skilled personnel as a real constraint on plans for the expansion of the uranium sector in Australia more broadly. How would you characterise ERA's capacity in relation to accredited radiation scientists and radiation safety specialists?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: This was a concern for us for some time. Stakeholders actually made the point to ERA that they were concerned about that and ERA went through a significant recruitment campaign over the past 12 months or so. They have now actually got quite a number of additional people in their radiation safety section. I believe that they have adequate capacity.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: They do now?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: Yes.</p>	31 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Senator LUDLAM: Can you tell us how many radiation specialists are engaged by ERA at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: I cannot give you the exact number.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Is that something you could take on notice for us?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: I will take that on notice, yes.</p>			
138	5: SSD	Cameron	Alligator Rivers Region Committees	<p>(page 34)</p> <p>CHAIR: Can I now come to the Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee?</p> <p>...</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you give me some figures on the attendance at the meetings over the last five years, in terms of the numbers of apologies? That should be a pretty simple calculation.</p> <p>Mr Hughes: We could provide that on notice, I think. I would not be able to tell you that at the moment.</p> <p>CHAIR: Of course, yes.</p> <p>Mr Hughes: I would just make a comment, if I may, about that. Although there are a number of members who give their apologies, they also have deputies turn up for some areas. Also, we have quite a number of people who attend as observers. So there are often a lot of people at those Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee meetings.</p> <p>CHAIR: That is good. I am not really worried about or interested in observers; they have no status on the committee other than to observe. I am interested in the actual operation of the committee to make sure that it is operating effectively and consistent with the obligations that the committee has.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 35)</p> <p>CHAIR: Does your committee have a look at the CSIRO and the Climate Commission scientific work that is being done in the Northern Territory?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: Do you mean in terms of climate change?</p> <p>CHAIR: In terms of climate change.</p> <p>Mr Hughes: It is on the agenda and recognised by the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee as an issue and it is put up constantly at meetings that this needs to be contemplated when we are looking at our research needs in the area and also for regulatory purposes. So, yes, it is on the agenda.</p> <p>CHAIR: When was it first discussed at the technical committee? You can take that on notice, if you like.</p> <p>Mr Hughes: I would have to take it on notice to search it out. But I do recall it was more than three or four years ago.</p>	34 and 35 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
139	5: SSD	Ludlam	Services provided to DSEWPac	<p>(page 37)</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I want to skip quickly to WA and the 'services', if I could describe them as that, that you are providing to some of the proponents in Western Australia. You indicated in some answers that you took on notice—and thank you for</p>	37 and 38 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>responding—that you have provided technical advice on Kintyre, Yeelirrie and some of the projects that are proposed at Wiluna. Can you provide us—and I know that we are a bit short of time—with technical advice on what issues and any detail at all of exactly what it was that you have provided for those proponents, whether it was direct to the proponents or to the WA state government?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: It is not provided direct to the proponents; it is provided to the approvals and wildlife division of our own department.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Could I ask you to take on notice, given that time is fairly short, providing us with some detail on the precise nature of the services that you are providing to the department?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(page 38)</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I would also ask you to provide on notice the dates that information was submitted to the Commonwealth department.</p>			
140	5: SSD	Ludlam	Disposal of tailings - 10,000-year responsibility	<p>Senator LUDLAM: ...My last question—because I know that we are out of time—is whether or not you have provided any advice at all of any kind on the matter of ERA's 10,000-year responsibility for the disposal of tailings. As far as I am aware, that is a unique licence condition anywhere in the world. The tailings will obviously be toxic for much longer than that, but it is a good start—a 10,000-year responsibility. There is a motion before the WA parliament on extending that licence condition to any new uranium mines—if it is good enough for the territory then it should apply elsewhere. At any time have you been asked for advice or have you offered advice on how on earth that is to be achieved?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: I personally have not. I do not know what input the Supervising Scientist at the time that that was developed had. That probably would have been Bob Fry back in the 1980s, I would imagine.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: My specific question was whether the state government or at any time any other Commonwealth minister or department has asked you for advice on the 10,000-year licence condition?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: Not that I can specifically recall. We do undertake assessment works of any proposals in the dealing with tailings on the mine sites.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I understand that. I am asking specifically about the 10,000-year responsibility. I think it is an important precedent that we set, and obviously we are determined to make sure that it is applied to other projects. Could you undertake to go through your records and provide us with a precis on that issue specifically, where it came from? If you could confirm for us on the record whether it is accurate that you have not since then submitted or provided advice.</p> <p>Mr Hughes: I will have a look. I will take that question on notice and see what we can do about that.</p>	38 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
141	Corporate: BID	Boswell	Funding for WWF	<p>Senator BOSWELL: At last estimates I asked AusAID a question. I will read the question out now. They have asked me to refer the question to you. The World Wildlife Fund Australian annual report details that AusAID gave grants of \$418,648 in 2009 and \$150,000 in 2010. An amount under 'other Australians' was listed as \$1,048,639. Other grants came to \$4,358,858 in 2009 for each of the above amounts of funding. The answer goes on and gives an answer to the first part of the question. Then it says: "The \$1,048,639 and \$4,358,858 figures are listed under 'Grants: Government (other)' for 2010 and 2009 respectively in WWF's 2010 Annual Report. The majority of funding has been provided through programs administered by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Further information on these funding sources should be sought from that department."</p> <p>So I am asking you now: I refer to funds provided to the World Wildlife Fund listed in their annual report for 2010 as 'other Australian' for the amount of \$1,048,639 and particularly those questions which identify that the majority of funds were provided under programs administered by your department. Can you please provide a detailed account of the amount of funding grants provided to the World Wildlife Fund for the amount listed of \$1,048,639?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I understand Senator Boswell's question but I am not in a position to be able to provide now an answer to Senator Boswell in the sense that I am thinking it may be project work that is associated with the Coral Triangle initiative. But I am not confident that that is the case and I am not across whether the department has other grants which it has provided to WWF for other purposes. So I would prefer to take it on notice on that basis.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: That figure that you are referring to is the \$1,048,639. There is also another figure there for \$4,358,858 listed as 'Grants: Government (other)'. Can you also tell me what that is for, or are they both for that?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Senator, I do not have the benefit of having in front of me the information that you have. You are conveying to me information that has come from AusAID and they have said, 'PS, ask SEWPac about those programs.' I am saying to you tonight I do not have the information in front of me to understand the substance of the question that you are asking. Therefore, we need to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: Okay. I will just put what I want answered on notice. Can you please provide a detailed account of the amount of funding grants provided to the World Wildlife Fund for the amount listed as \$1,048,639? Was this a single grant amount provided to the World Wildlife Fund? If not, under what programs and for what purpose were these funds provided? When was each grant or funding allocation provided? Can I also have details of all acquittals provided by the World Wildlife Fund associated with these grants. I will also ask you to include the amount of \$4,358,858. ...</p>	92 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
142	Corporate:	Birmingham	Funding for	Has the Department provided any funding to any of the following organisations in the	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	BID		particular organisations	current financial year or in any of the previous three financial years? If so, please detail when it was provided and for what purpose. a. Australian Conservation Foundation b. Australian Council of Trade Unions c. Australian Youth Climate Coalition d. Climate Action Network Australia e. The Climate Institute f. Environment Victoria g. GetUp! h. Greenpeace Australia Pacific i. World Wildlife Fund Australia			
143	Corporate: BID	Fisher	Consultancies	For both the department and agencies: 1. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway this FYTD? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and the cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. Open tender, direct source etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies. 2. Does each department and agency stand by its current tenders on the Austenders website? 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. Are up to date with reporting requirements? 3. How many consultancies are planned for each calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the Austender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
144	Corporate: BID	Fisher	Discretionary Grants	1. Could the department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants FYTD? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants. 2. Has the department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
145	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Contractors	For both the department and agencies: 1. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details. 2. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details. 3. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>4. Has the department or agency within the portfolio ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details</p> <p>5. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>6. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>7. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>8. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>9. Has the department or any agency within the portfolio ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.</p>			
146	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Education Expenses	1. Please detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the cost and how many participants.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
147	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Executive Coaching and Leadership Training	<p>1. In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each portfolio department or any agency within the portfolio, please provide the following information FYTD:</p> <p>a. Total spending on these services</p> <p>b. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification</p> <p>c. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification</p> <p>d. The names of all service providers engaged</p> <p>2. For each service purchased form a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <p>a. The name and nature of the service purchased</p> <p>b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based</p> <p>c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification</p> <p>d. The total number of hours involved for all employees</p> <p>e. The total amount spent on the service</p> <p>f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package.)</p> <p>3. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <p>a. The location used</p>	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location. 			
148	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Government Payments of Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the department and agencies within the portfolio paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. 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 the issue is being approached. 2. For accounts not paid in 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? 3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
149	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Government Stationery Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. special type of paper, envelopes)? 2. What are the cost of these items? 3. Is the Department/portfolio agencies paying for these? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
150	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Hospitality – department and agencies	<p>For both the department and agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the hospitality spend FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events? Please detail any catering costs, listing the cost of food and beverages, and include a separate list of alcohol costs. 2.. What is the department/agency's entertainment spend FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
151	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Hospitality – Minister and Parliamentary Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD? Please detail any catering costs, listing the cost of food and beverages, and include a separate list of alcohol costs. 2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend FYTD? Please detail date, location purpose and cost of each event. 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
152	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Media Subscriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your department or agencies within the portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels. 2. Does your department or agencies within the portfolio subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers. 3. Does your department or agencies within the portfolio subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines. 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
153	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Paid Parental Leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				many staff are in receipt of these payments.			
154	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Staffing – Efficiency Dividend and Budget Cuts	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.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
155	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Staffing numbers	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	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
156	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Travel Costs	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.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
157	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Workpoint Space	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	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				separately. f. Are there plans to meet the Guidelines? Please explain.			
158	Corporate: IMD	Fisher	Social Media	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.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
159	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Late questions on notice	(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. ... (page 7) 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.	5 and 7 (24/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11
160	Corporate: PCD	Cameron	Budget outcomes and portfolio structure	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?	73(24/5/11)	12/07/11 + 1 att't	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>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.</p> <p>CHAIR: That would be great.</p>			
161	Corporate: PCD	Cash	GVEHO criteria	<p>(page 5)</p> <p>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—</p> <p>Dr Grimes: I understand the question that you are asking—</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Conroy: Community activity and political advocacy can be a fine line.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: I think the very specific question that you have asked we will have to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator CASH: How could you possibly have to take on notice—</p> <p>...</p> <p>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.</p> <p>...</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Senator Conroy: We would have to see it.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Minister, is that something that the government would define as political activity?</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I would not want to suggest that you would be putting words into my mouth on the words of the website—</p> <p>Senator CASH: No, that is why I am asking the question.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	5-6 and 7 (25/5/11)	02/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>organisations that engaged in this sort of political activity—given that it is contrary to the guidelines?</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Senator Conroy: We will happily take that on notice and consider the information that you have provided, Senator Cash.</p>			
162	Corporate: PCD	Cash	Compliance with GVEHO guidelines	<p>Senator CASH: In the event that they do not comply, what are the sanctions?</p> <p>Senator Conroy: Now you are asking a hypothetical.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Senator CONROY: They give the money back.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: That would be a question of whether there are any sanctions applied under the guidelines. I am not sure—</p> <p>Senator Conroy: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>	6 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
163	Corporate: PCD	Cash	GVEHO review	<p>Ms Parry: The review commenced earlier in 2010 and it was just part of a continuous improvement effort.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I would have to take that on notice, just to confirm dates.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Okay. When did Minister Burke become responsible for this department?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: September last year.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Sorry, when did you say the review commenced? When were you are instructed to commence the review?</p> <p>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.</p>	8 (25/5/11)	01/08/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Senator CASH: What was approximately the month—did you say it was October 2010?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I did not. I said that it was in 2010.</p> <p>...</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Have any concerns been raised with you internally or externally about the eligibility criteria?</p> <p>Ms Parry: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Thank you very much. ...</p>			
164	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Late questions on notice - heritage	<p>Senator ABETZ: Can I be given an explanation as to why answers to questions Nos 71 and 72 were delivered only the other day?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I can happily take that on notice for you, Senator Abetz.</p>	18 (25/5/11)	12/07/11	25/08/11
165	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Board Appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio? 2. Please detail any board appointments for the FYTD. 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
166	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Meetings	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).			
167	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Commissioned Reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level? What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
168	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Community Cabinet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What was the cost of the Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held the FYTD? How many ministerial staff travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel? How many departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the cost of this travel? What was the total cost to the department and the Minister's Office? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
169	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Freedom of Information requests	<p>For both the department and agencies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has the department or any agency within the portfolio received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests? How many FOI requests has the department received? How many have been granted or denied? How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
170	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Government Advertising	<p>For both the department and agencies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What communications programs has the department or any agency within the portfolio undertaken, or are planning to undertake FYTD? For each program, what is the total spend? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
171	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Legal Costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. 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 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				costs.			
172	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Media Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
173	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Reviews	<p>For both the department and agencies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	Written	02/08/11	25/08/11
174	2.2: Housing	Payne	NRAS – incentives awarded to date	Can the department please provide a breakdown of the number of NRAS incentives awarded to date in each state and territory, according to the number of bedrooms to be contained in each dwelling. Can the department also provide these details for the applications lodged to date, whether or not they led to the approval of an incentive.	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11
175	5.2: AWD	Heffernan	Industrial Scale Wind Farm developments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many environmental studies have been commissioned by the Department and or conducted in relation to the development of Industrial wind developments in rural areas since 2006? 2. Many rural areas currently under the threat of industrial development, including the Yass Valley and Boorowa, are listing has hosting many threatened species, how is your Department ensuring the safety and protection of threatened species? 3. Whilst the protection of flora and fauna is paramount, what environmental protection consideration is given to residents in the direct pathway? 	Written	12/07/11	25/08/11