

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

Budget Estimates 2012-13, 21 May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	165
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Direct loans – completed projects		
Hansard Page EC:	EC70		

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Can I go to your particular loans then. You have two types of loans, as I understand: the indirect and the direct loans, as we have discussed previously. You have provided some information there. In terms of the direct loans, is it still the case you have completed four projects?

Ms McDonald: I will have to take on notice the actual number. I can give you the total funds we have contracted and the total that we have got under negotiation, but I do not have a breakdown of the two.

Answer:

To 26 June 2012, Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) has committed finance of \$35.8 million which has thus far financed twelve individual projects – seven through direct loans and five through Finance Partners (indirect loans) – and established indirect finance facilities with five Finance Partners (Macquarie, FlexiGroup, Origin, Alleasing and The Environmental Upgrade Fund with NAB and Eureka Funds Management).

In addition to these projects, in June 2012 LCAL announced a direct loan to Cardinia Shire Council.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	166
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Hawker Britton		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	167
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Shannon’s Way		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed Shannon’s Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon’s Way? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	168
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – John Utting & UMR Research Group		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	169
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – McCann-Erickson		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details

Answer:

No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	170
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Cutting Edge		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	171
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Ikon Communications		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	172
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors - CMAX Communications		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

No.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	173
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – Boston Consulting Group		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

No.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	174
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Contractors – McKinsey & Company		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has LCAL ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

No.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 175
Program: LCAL
Agency: LCAL
Topic: Contractors - General
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, what contractors have been employed by LCAL? Provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost)

Answer:

Contractor (non-ongoing employee)	Work undertaken	Employment cost in the 2011-12 FY
Carbon Neutral Certification Analyst	NCOS Program implementation	\$164,065*
IT Project Manager	Software integration with Client Relationship management system	
IT Project Manager	Software integration with Client Relationship management system – successor contractor for the next stage of project development	
Communications Consultant	Communications and Marketing	

* Cost includes base salary and 9 per cent superannuation plus add-on WorkCover cost. LCAL is exempt from payroll tax. It is not possible to provide individual contract value due to staff privacy and commercial considerations.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	176
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Social Media - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has there been any changes to LCAL's social media or protocols about staff access and usage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued. If no, please explain why not.

Answer:

Yes, however, this was performed as part of a wider media policy review. As was previously advised in the answer to Additional Estimates Question on Notice 159 of 13 February 2012, Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) staff are not public servants and therefore the publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: *Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online*, while containing useful guidance, is not directly applicable to LCAL's circumstances.

LCAL actively uses social media channels to promote availability of its finance and awareness of its work. Its policy is not to treat social media differently from other forms of media. The standards of conduct and behaviour applicable to LCAL employees, whether in the online or any other environment are covered in the Board approved Company Policies and Procedures as amended from time to time. In consequence there are no specific protocols "about staff access and usage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs".

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 177
Program: LCAL
Agency: LCAL
Topic: Media Monitoring - LCAL
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to LCAL for this financial year to date?
2. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
3. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2012-13?

Answer:

1. The total cost of services of the type indicated for the financial year to 21 May 2012 was \$4,585.13.
2. There were two service providers: CCH Online & Media Monitors.

Cost FYTD	Agency providing Service
\$543.40	Media Monitors
\$4,041.73	CCH

3. The estimated budget to provide these same services in 2012-13 is \$5,000.00.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	178
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Consultancies - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this 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.

Answer:

- 1-2. Please refer to the answers given previously in the response to Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 156 of 17 October 2011 and Additional Question on Notice 150 of 13 February 2012 regarding the applicability of this question to Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL).

LCAL does not plan consultancies by calendar year. Consultancies are engaged on an as needed basis. LCAL is under a deadline to apply public funding by 30 June 2013. It should be noted that for much of this period LCAL's staff headcount ranged between 4 to 29 staff as the Company has grown. LCAL uses consultants as a cost-effective way to acquire:

- skills that are not available in house;
- those which are only required for a fixed temporary period;
- skills that are otherwise required temporarily for a specified task;
- skills that are required interstate or remote from LCAL's Brisbane headquarters;
- for urgently required skills that would take too long to recruit or pending a recruitment; and
- any combination of the above.

Details requested are provided in the table below [please note, costs given below are for consultancies *undertaken* (that is, contracted) in 2011-12 per the question]. Actual recognition of expense of cost figures below may occur in future financial years as the services were delivered in more than one financial year). Details for consultancies in calendar 2012 are marked with an asterisk(*):

Consultancies Undertaken in 2011/12				
Date	Contractor	Task	Period	Cost (\$)
21/09/2011	Trac-Car Pty Ltd	IT and systems architecture services for the assessment of the Software Business Modelling Technology	6 months	46,718.18
1/10/2011	Helme Consulting	Carbon Neutral Program Stakeholder satisfaction assessment tools and quality control	1 month	4,500.00
22/11/2011	Aurecon	EEP Reviews of Expressions of Interest	3 months	35,206.34
17/01/2012	Seed Advisory*	Energy Market Review report	1 month	32,526.50
22/02/2012	Siller Systems*	Review of recordkeeping for National Archives	1 month	11,011.36
23/01/2012	University of Qld	Update to the carbon offset guide	6 months	3,333.30
23/05/2012	Hart consulting Group	Review or remuneration	1 month	14,491.98
30/5/2012	City of Melbourne	Funding towards Tenant Engagement Tool	12 months	110,000.00
14/6/2012	Odyssey Training	IT solutions	1 month	493.18
30/04/2012	Anita Lewis	Writing and Website development	2 months	6,375.00
FYTD 14/06/2012	10 Total	N/A	N/A	264,655.84

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	179
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Hospitality and Entertainment - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What is LCAL's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
2. What hospitality spend is LCAL planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
3. What is LCAL's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
4. What entertainment spend is LCAL planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
5. Is LCAL planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

1. \$1,796.63. This expense was accrued in one staff and stakeholder event held on 19 March 2012 at 140 Ann St, Brisbane.
2. \$1,796.63. Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) is not planning any further hospitality spend to 30 June 2012.
3. \$13,848.48* to 31 May 2012. Details of date, location, purpose and cost are itemised as follows:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (\$)
14/07/2011	Wagga Wagga	Meal w/ stakeholders	78.00
14/07/2011	Sydney	Meal w/stakeholder	14.60
15/07/2011	Sydney	2 x staff meal w/ 2 x stakeholder	289.51
19/07/2011	Sydney	Lunch w/ stakeholders	70.00
22/07/2011	Brisbane	Lunch w/ stakeholders	61.60
1/08/2011	Canberra	Lunch 2 x staff w/ 2 x stakeholders	190.91
9/08/2011	Sydney	Lunch w/ stakeholders	51.47
31/08/2011	Hobart	Lunch w/ 2 x stakeholders	139.95
1/09/2011	Sydney	Lunch w/ stakeholders	62.93
2/09/2011	Brisbane	Lunch w/ stakeholders	54.80
13/09/2011	Canberra	Lunch 2 x staff w/ 2 x stakeholders	157.00
16/09/2011	Brisbane	Lunch w/ stakeholders	50.70
17/09/2011	Brisbane	Lunch w/ stakeholder	30.16
20/09/2011	Brisbane	Lunch w/ stakeholders	70.80
20/09/2011	Brisbane	Dinner 3 x staff w/stakeholders	409.09
22/09/2011	Sydney	Lunch w/ stakeholders	56.61
27/09/2011	Melbourne	Lunch w/ stakeholders	13.25
28/09/2011	Brisbane	Lunch w/ stakeholders	64.36
29/09/2011	Melbourne	Lunch w/ stakeholders	36.07
12/10/2011	Brisbane	CEDA Annual Dinner (3 x staff)	900.00
13/10/2011	Brisbane	CEDA Lunch (1 x Staff)	170.00
25/10/2011	Sydney	Lunch w/ 5 x stakeholders	45.80
28/10/2011	Brisbane	Staff Team Building Function	1,139.45
7/11/2011	Melbourne	Lunch w/ 4 x stakeholders	211.54

22/11/2011	Brisbane	Lunch w/ stakeholder	170.00
28/11/2011	Brisbane	Drinks w/ stakeholders	70.14
1/12/2011	Sydney	Lunch w/ stakeholders	40.00
5/12/2011	Melbourne	Lunch w/ 2 x stakeholders	155.15
13/12/2011	Brisbane	Lunch w/ stakeholders	24.91
13/12/2011	Sydney	Board Dinner (6 x Directors, 3 x staff)	909.09
16/12/2011	Brisbane	Staff Recognition Function	1,884.73
10/01/2012	Sydney	Meal w/ stakeholder	91.36
12/01/2012	Sydney	Lunch w/ stakeholders	27.18
12/01/2012	Sydney	Meal w/ stakeholder	56.98
17/01/2012	Brisbane	Lunch 4 x staff w/ 4 x stakeholders	208.52
31/01/2012	Sydney	Meal w/ stakeholder	60.91
9/02/2012	Brisbane	Meal w/ stakeholder	103.60
17/02/2012	Melbourne	Staff meal while travelling	23.28
21/02/2012	Sydney	Meal w/ stakeholders	1,484.10
22/02/2012	Brisbane	Meal w/ stakeholder	59.18
2/03/2012	Brisbane	Meal w/ stakeholder	12.05
6/03/2012	Sydney	Business Client Luncheon with Guest Dr Nils Kok	1,533.66
12/03/2012	Brisbane	Staff Meals working lunch	259.84
13/03/2012	Brisbane	Staff Meals – working lunch	31.67
15/03/2012	Sydney	Staff meals while travelling	84.48
15/03/2012	Melbourne	Meal w/ stakeholder	86.36

15/03/2012	Sydney	Meal w/ stakeholders	915.45
16/03/2012	Canberra	Meal w/ stakeholder	18.90
22/03/2012	Sydney	Meal w/ Contractor	60.00
29/03/2012	Melbourne	Meal w/ stakeholder	14.29
13/04/2012	Sydney	Refreshment w/ stakeholder	13.50
25/04/2012	Sydney	Staff Meals while travelling	113.64
26/04/2012	Melbourne	Meal w/stakeholder	110.44
3/05/2012	Brisbane	Refreshments stakeholder	12.55
8/05/2012	Brisbane	Meal w/ stakeholder	41.43
8/05/2012	Melbourne	Meal w/ stakeholder	56.00
8/05/2012	Melbourne	Drinks w/stakeholder	113.13
11/05/2012	Sydney	Meal w/ stakeholder	62.20
16/05/2012	Brisbane	Meal w/ stakeholder	207.71
16/05/2012	Sydney	Meal w/stakeholder	75.50
17/05/2012	Brisbane	Meal w/ consultant	49.73
22/05/2012	Perth	Meal w/ stakeholder	35.67
24/05/2012	Melbourne	Staff meals while travelling	39.55
24/05/2012	Adelaide	Meal w/ stakeholders	163.00

*NB: Goods and Services Tax (GST) adjusted figure is an add-back of GST to the account due to the 50-50 method being used for Fringe Benefits Tax calculation purposes. The figures that appear within the schedule reflect the cost to the Company and are exclusive of GST where the Company is able to recoup the GST and inclusive of GST where this cost is not recoverable by the Company costs due to the nature of the entertainment expenditure.

4. LCAL anticipates an increased spend on entertainment in 2011-12 as the business ramps up into full program operations and deployment (refer to Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 151 of 17 October 2011). As previously advised, these costs generally occur from time to time as normal business engagement with clients and business prospects. Costs are prospective and are not able to be broken down in the manner asked for in advance.
5. No. LCAL believes that the 2011-12 hospitality expenditure of \$1,796.63 is very much below what a commercially-facing business of this size would ordinarily expect to spend. LCAL is gearing up its operations and expects that its hospitality expenditure will grow as part of writing business.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	180
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Advertising - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?
2. Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
3. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
4. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
5. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.
6. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
7. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the LCAL undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer:

1. For the 2011-12 financial year, the total advertising spend to 17 May 2012 was \$17,181.55.

2. As previously advised in the answers to Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 150 of 17 October 2011 and Additional Estimates Question on Notice 153 of 13 February 2012, the definitions referred to are not applicable to Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL). The following details are provided for financial year 2011-12 to 17 May 2012:

Advertisement	Program	Spend	Provider
Request for Proposals (Placement)	Energy Efficiency Program (EEP)	\$9,085.52	Mitchell and Partners Australia Pty Ltd
Request for Proposals (Artwork)	EEP	\$700.00	Communicator One Pty Ltd
Seeking Financing Opportunities	EEP	\$522.81	AAP
LCAL Promotion	EEP	\$3,632.00	Aust Institute of Company Directors
Job Advertisements	EEP, Carbon Neutral Program (CNP), & Core Administrative Funding (CAF)	\$1,741.22	LinkedIn
Job Advertisements	EEP, CNP, & CAF	\$1,500.00	Seek

3. No.
4. No.
5. No. As previously advised in the answers to Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 150 of 17 October 2011 and Additional Estimates Question on Notice 153 of 13 February 2012, the Guidelines are not applicable.
- 6-7. As previously advised in the answers to Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 150 of 17 October 2011 and Additional Estimates Question on Notice 153 of 13 February 2012, the definitions referred to are not applicable to LCAL.

As previously advised in the answer to Additional Estimates Question on Notice 153 of 13 February 2012, LCAL has a regular program of communication with its clients and stakeholders, and is:

- advising existing and prospective clients of LCAL's new and existing finance products and eligibility criteria;
- advising existing and prospective clients of LCAL's Carbon Neutral Program under the National Carbon Offset Standard of developments and eligibility criteria; and
- advising the media and general public of specific developments by public announcement from time to time as necessary.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	181
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Staffing – Graduates – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

What was the cost for recruiting 2012 Graduates? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer:

LCAL has incurred no cost in recruiting graduates in 2012.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	182
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Staffing – Graduate Training – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Will there be any training after the 2012 Calendar year for 2012 Graduates? If yes, please detail costs and what the training is.

Answer:

There is no training, as Low Carbon Australia Limited has a) no graduates at this time, and b) no intention to recruit graduates in the 2012 calendar year at this time.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	183
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Staffing – SES – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked: Please list the SES positions have you in your agency this financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has no Senior Executive Service positions because, as advised in the answer to Additional Estimates Question on Notice 148 of 13 February 2012, it is not staffed under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	184
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Staffing – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
2. How many non ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
3. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

1. Thirteen ongoing staff have been recruited this financial year to 15 May 2012. All thirteen are non-executive.
2. Two specified-term contract employment positions (one full-time through May 2012, one part-time through October 2012) exist or have been recruited to 15 May 2012.

Both are non-executive.
3. Two specified-term contract employment positions (one full-time through May 2012, one part-time through October 2012) exist or have been recruited to 15 May 2012. The average length of employment period was eight months.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 185
Program: LCAL
Agency: LCAL
Topic: Government Payment of Accounts –
LCAL
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

1. For the 2011-12 financial year to date, Low Carbon Australia Limited has paid its accounts to contractors/consultants in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days). A breakdown of payments for the 2011-12 financial year to date is presented in the table below.

Payment Terms	Percentage by dollar value	Percentage by number of payments
<=15 days	72%	71%
>15 days <=30 days	28%	29%
>30 days <=45 days	Nil	Nil
>45 days <=60 days	Nil	Nil
>60 days <=90 days	Nil	Nil
>90 days	Nil	Nil

2-4. As previously advised in the answers to:

- Budget Estimates Question on Notice 144 of 23 May 2011,
- Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 167 of 17 October 2011, and
- Additional Estimates Question on Notice 171 of 13 February 2012;

for accounts not paid within 30 days, interest is not being paid on overdue amounts.
Note that LCAL is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* company.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 186
Program: LCAL
Agency: LCAL
Topic: Stationary Requirements - LCAL
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What is LCAL's stationery costs for the financial year to date?
2. What was LCAL's stationery costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?

Answer:

1-2.

Year	Stationery Cost
2009-10*	\$2,223.31
2010-11	\$10,061.48
2011-12 FYTD to 31 May 2012	\$12,270.38
*NB – LCAL was only in operation for three months of financial year 2009/2010.	

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	187
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Media Subscriptions		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?

2. Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?

3. Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. No.
 - a) Not applicable.
 - b) \$0

2. No.
 - a) Not applicable.
 - b) \$1036.36

3. Yes.
 - a) Low Carbon Australia Limited elected not to renew its subscription to *BRW Weekly* as a business assessment was formed that the subscription was surplus to requirements.
 - b) \$0

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

Budget Estimates 2012-13, 21 May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	188
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Travel Costs - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).

Answer:

1. As Low Carbon Australia Limited is not a Department, nor part of a Department, it has no Departmental officers. Low Carbon Australia briefs the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and on occasion organises events or attends events that are also attended by the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary. There have been no instances of LCAL employees accompanying a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary on their travels.
2. Low Carbon Australia Limited is a company and has no Departmental officers. 2011-12 figures for travel and related expenses by LCAL Directors and Employees are shown in the attached table.

Classification	Expenses
Accommodation	\$53,770.34
Air Travel International	\$0.00
Air Travel Domestic*	\$183,270.59
Car Parking	\$4,724.54
Taxis & Fares [#]	\$59,003.70
Meals whilst Travelling	\$11,336.28
Mileage Reimbursed	\$2,287.44
Company Directors Travel & Subsistence* [^]	\$60,718.64
Total Travel Costs for 2011-12 Financial Year	\$375,111.53
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>* Please note for domestic travel within Australia, staff generally travel economy class, while Company Directors have a business class fare entitlement that they can elect to use. Actual reconciliation of type of airfare would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.</p> <p># Includes public transport e.g. buses and trains.</p> <p>[^]Includes accommodation, airfares, meal, car-parking etc.</p>	

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	189
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Travel Policy - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
2. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
3. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

Answer:

1. The guidelines cited are not applicable. The cited circulars are applicable to agencies governed by the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) is a public *Corporations Act 2001* company governed by the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.
2. As previously advised in the answer to Additional Estimates Question on Notice 173 of 13 February 2012, lounge memberships are not provided to any employees.
3. Not applicable. LCAL is not staffed under the *Public Service Act 1999* and has no SES officers.

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Legislation Committee**

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	190
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Legal Costs – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What sum did LCAL spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did LCAL spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did LCAL spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each LCAL spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

1. Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) is a *Corporations Act 2001* public company governed by the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 2001* and is not a *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* agency. As at 30 April 2012, the internal spend was \$196,309.78. It is not appropriate to break this figure down due to staff privacy and commercial considerations.
2. LCAL has not employed the legal services of the Australian Government Solicitor this financial year to date.
3. An itemised list of expenditure on external legal services and costs for the financial year to date are itemised in the table below. All external expenses were from private firms and are given ex-GST.

Date	Private Firm	Description	Cost \$
29/07/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	Advice and assistance with drafting of Carbon Neutral Customer Agreement under National Carbon Offset Standard	617.91
29/07/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	Funding Agreement advice	607.68
29/07/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	Advice and assistance with drafting of Carbon Neutral Customer Agreement under National Carbon Offset Standard	577.46
29/07/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	Advice and assistance with drafting of Carbon Neutral Customer Agreement under National Carbon Offset Standard	12,161.18
19/08/2011	Baker and McKenzie	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	19,761.94
30/08/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	Funding Agreement advice	406.85
30/08/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	Advice and assistance with drafting of Carbon Neutral Customer Agreement under National Carbon Offset Standard	2,239.49
31/08/2011	DibbsBarker	Advice on various Structured Finance Facilities under Energy Efficiency Program	10,716.00
31/08/2011	DibbsBarker	General Commercial IP Matters	700.40
1/09/2011	Clayton Utz	Regulatory issues & Compliance advice	2,011.80
1/09/2011	Clayton Utz	Regulatory issues & Compliance advice	3,074.40
1/09/2011	Clayton Utz	Regulatory issues & Compliance advice	3,953.40
12/09/2011	Baker and McKenzie	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	18,922.50
30/09/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	NCOS Legal Advice	406.85
28/09/2011	Thomsons Lawyers	Advice on Employment Contract	247.50
30/09/2011	DibbsBarker	Advice on various Structured Finance Facilities under Energy Efficiency Program	6,864.00
30/09/2011	DibbsBarker	Competition & Consumer Law Compliance Program	2,500.00

1/10/2011	DibbsBarker	Trade Mark Advice and Registration	6,730.63
1/10/2011	DibbsBarker	General Commercial IP Matters	4,419.00
31/10/2011	DibbsBarker	Advice on loan agreement under Energy Efficiency Program	13,282.15
25/11/2011	Norton Rose Aust	Advice on loan agreement under Energy Efficiency Program	3,966.70
29/11/2011	DibbsBarker	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	1,560.00
29/11/2011	DibbsBarker	Advice on loan agreement under Energy Efficiency Program	2,562.48
1/12/2011	Clayton Utz	Advice on loan agreement under Energy Efficiency Program	3,177.30
1/12/2011	Clayton Utz	Linked Credit Provider Advice	3,781.20
21/12/2011	Clayton Utz	AML/CTF Program Review	1,200.00
21/12/2011	Clayton Utz	Review of AML/CTF Standard Terms	1,363.63
22/12/2011	DibbsBarker	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	572.00
22/12/2011	DibbsBarker	Advice on loan agreement under Energy Efficiency Program	1,250.00
23/12/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	NCOS Legal Advice	364.00
23/12/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	General Contractual Advice	591.50
23/12/2011	Macrossans Lawyers	Advice on Employment Contracts	450.00
30/12/2011	DibbsBarker	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	11,978.58
30/01/2012	DibbsBarker	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	364.00
30/01/2012	DibbsBarker	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	20,441.50
31/01/2012	DibbsBarker	Advice on Trademark Protection	2,522.50
1/02/2012	Clayton Utz	Advice on Linked Credit Provider considerations in loan products	2,000.00
17/02/2012	Baker & McKenzie	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	296.80
21/02/2012	Barrington Leather	Energy performance Contract Review	18,157.00

29/02/2012	Macrossan Lawyers	NCOS Legal Advice	318.50
1/3/12	DibbsBarker	Advice on various Structured Finance Facilities under Energy Efficiency Program	16,110.42
1/3/2012	DibbsBarker	Advice on Logo Protection	598.00
1/3/2012	Clayton Utz	Linked credit provider advice	1285.00
13/03/2012	DibbsBarker	Advice on Trademark Protection	1922.09
1/4/2012	DibbsBarker	Advice on Logo Protection	2427.27
1/4/2012	DibbsBarker	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	13,243.56
30/4/2012	DibbsBarker	Advice on Structured Finance Facility under Energy Efficiency Program	1,542.59
TOTAL FYTD to 30/04/2012			\$224,247.76

4. \$0

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	191
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Education Expenses – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What are the LCAL's guidelines on study? Please provide details.
2. For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the LCAL.

Answer:

1. The Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) guidelines on study are set by the Board as part of LCAL Corporate Policies and Procedures. LCAL is committed to providing an environment in which employees are adequately equipped to achieve career and professional development needs relevant to their employment.

Studies assistance provides financial assistance for employees to undertake courses of study that will contribute to the improvement of their professional skills and knowledge relevant to their employment. Permanent employees of LCAL are invited to apply for study support for approved programs. Approved programs are those that relate directly to the employee's role at LCAL and will result in the development of the individual. Applications are assessed on a strictly discretionary basis and must be negotiated and approved by the Chief Executive Officer before study commitments are undertaken.

Staff members intending to undertake a course of study first discuss their plans with their supervisors to ensure that they correspond with work unit aims and that their study commitments can be accommodated within operational requirements.

The criteria under which applications are considered are the:

- strategic and operational needs of LCAL;
- impact of absences for study purposes on the workload of the work unit;
- effective work performance of the applicant;
- skills and specific knowledge required by the work unit;
- career and professional development needs of the applicant; and
- relevance of the course of study to the employee's employment within LCAL.

Employees who wish to apply for study support must have been employed by LCAL as a permanent employee for a minimum period of six months.

The decision to provide assistance and the form of the assistance to be provided to staff members will be on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, taking advice of the Manager Human Resources.

LCAL will typically reimburse the cost of required text books for subjects undertaken.

Employees must have Manager approval prior to books being purchased, which will subsequently remain the property of LCAL. On completion of the subject the books will be kept in the Corporate Library for future use by LCAL employees.

Each employee will be entitled to one Study Leave day per subject unit, at Manager's discretion, and one Exam Leave day per subject unit or as otherwise agreed. A *Request for Leave* form is required, together with documentary evidence of the date and time of each exam.

LCAL will have no responsibility for any incomplete portion of approved study at the time of termination. Reimbursement of expenses incurred cannot be requested after termination.

An employee resigning or dismissed from LCAL will be required to refund 50 per cent of any financial support provided in relation to the previous 12 months immediately before the date of resignation (pro rata on a month by month basis). Payment will be automatically withdrawn from final salary payments. The above does not apply where retrenchment is involved.

Employees are requested to sign a 'Study Support Agreement'. The undertaking of study is a significant endeavour for both employee and company; therefore it is important that this effort is seen as a joint venture with shared responsibilities.

The ongoing provision of such financial assistance is based on the staff member achieving a minimum of a 'pass' in their chosen course. Expenses for retaking examinations will not be met by LCAL. Should a staff member discontinue the course before its conclusion, they may be required to reimburse LCAL for any financial assistance already provided.

2.

Education Expenditure 2011-12 FYTD as at 11 May 2012	
Tertiary Studies	
Partial reimbursement (30%) of course fees for Bachelor of Laws	\$544.80
Number of participants & Classification Level	1 Non Exec
Study Leave Granted	4 days
Reason for Study	To gain legal qualification
Benefit for LCAL	Employee has duties covering compliance

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	192
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Executive Coaching and Leadership Training - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by the agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
4. The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider listed under 4., please provide:

- a) The name and nature of the service purchased
- b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d) The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- e) The total amount spent on the service
- f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

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

- i. The location used
- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- iv. Any costs the agency incurred to use the location

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited has not purchased any executive coaching and/or other leadership training services this financial year to date.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	193
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Media Training - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

In relation to media training services purchased by the agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
4. The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider listed under 4, please provide:

- a) The name and nature of the service purchased
- b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- d) The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- e) The total amount spent on the service
- f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

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

- i. The location used
- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- iv. Any costs the agency incurred to use the location

Answer:

1-4. There has been no media training purchased by LCAL in this financial year.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	194
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Paid Parental Leave – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Please list how many staff in the agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
2. For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
3. Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

Please refer to the response to Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 176 of 17 October 2011. No LCAL staff are in receipt of these payments.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	195
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Corporate Cars – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

1. How many cars are owned by the agency?
2. Where is the car/s located?
3. What is the car/s used for?
4. What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?
5. How far did each car travel this financial year to date?

Answer:

Low Carbon Australia Limited does not own any cars.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 196
Program: LCAL
Agency: LCAL
Topic: Taxi Costs – LCAL
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

1. How much did LCAL spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in the agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

1. Car rental, taxis and fares expenses for the financial year to date are as follows:

Program Operations	\$ 36,243.06
Corporate	\$ 15,389.81
TOTAL	\$ 51,632.87

Note that the expenses provided are for car rental, taxis and fares. It is not possible to report taxi fares separately as Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) accounts do not capture this level of detail.

This note also applies to expenses previously reported in the answer to Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 178 of 17 October 2011 and Additional Estimates Question on Notice 180 of 13 February 2012.

2. The primary reasons for taximeter costs are as follows:
 - LCAL is primarily based in Brisbane and services the country nationally from this base.
 - Staff need to travel to secure business.
 - Two LCAL staff are based in Sydney.
 - Staff need to travel between offices.
 - LCAL does not operate a corporate fleet of vehicles.
 - LCAL does not offer any car parks to staff.
 - LCAL does not pay an allowance for vehicle purchase or leasing.

- Public transport schedules and services do not always suit travel or business arrangements.
- In many instances, taximeter services are a more effective use of funds that enables staff members to be more productive than if they were waiting for scheduled public transport services between meetings.

Circumstances in which staff access taximeter services are as follows:

- Staff member is travelling to or from airport.
- Staff member is travelling with luggage.
- Staff member is on interstate business.
- Staff member is attending function on behalf of business.
- Staff member worked back late and caught taxi for reasons of personal safety.
- Staff member is called in and public transport was not readily available e.g. public holiday.
- Staff member or package delivery required to travel urgently or unexpectedly.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	197
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Credit Cards – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.

Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

1. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
2. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
3. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
4. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
5. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

1. Fifteen Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) staff have a corporate credit card. LCAL is not an Australian Public Service (APS) agency under the *Public Service Act 1999* and does not use Australian Government APS classifications. Three staff were executive employees and twelve staff were non-executive employees.
- 2-5. There are no changes to the answers to these questions since Additional Estimates 2011-12 of 13 February 2012.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	198
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Printing of Documents – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Does LCAL print any hard copies of reports/statements/papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost.

Answer:

Yes. Low Carbon Australia Limited's (LCAL) in-office printers calculate number of pages printed but do not identify whether the document fits the specifications asked for in the question. Providing an itemised account of every document that was printed on paper and classifying it according to whether it fitted into the categories asked for would present an unreasonable diversion of resources.

For documents printed externally, LCAL's main printing expenses are directed towards marketing materials such as product fact sheets. Providing an itemised account of every document that was printed on paper and classifying it according to whether it fitted into the categories asked for would present an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Even though LCAL has not conducted such an exercise, it is clear that there is a standout expense incurred for the type of documents cited in the question – this is for printing the Annual Report which cost \$17,200 in the 2011-12 financial year. The number of copies printed, and where they are delivered is mandated by the *Guidelines for the Presentation of Documents to the Parliament (Including Government Documents, Government Responses to Committee Reports, Ministerial Statements, Annual Reports and Other Instruments) June 2010*. Copies of these Guidelines can be obtained from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website at: www.dpmc.gov.au/guidelines/index.cfm. LCAL typically prints another 30 copies for use in-house.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 199
Program: LCAL
Agency: LCAL
Topic: Provision of Equipment – LCAL
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive (not an inclusive list)) provided to LCAL staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.

Answer:

Yes. Details requested are as follows:

Item	Description	Issued to	Classification	Purchase Cost	Ongoing Cost*
Laptop	Lenovo ThinkPad X201 / X220	All staff (desktop arrangement)	All	\$1,590 - \$1,860	These items are covered by a packaged IT service agreement within which it is not possible to disaggregate ongoing cost to the level of specificity requested.
Monitor	Samsung SyncMaster BX2240 or P2250	All staff (desktop arrangement)	All	~\$256	
Docking Station	Lenovo ThinkPad X200 UltraBase	All staff (desktop arrangement)	All	\$199	
Mouse	Microsoft Basic Optical Mouse v2.0 Model 1113	All staff (desktop arrangement)	All	~\$20	

Keyboard	Microsoft Wired Keyboard 600 Model 1366	All staff (desktop arrangement)	All	~\$15	
Desk lamp	Humanscale 15-24 VDC 0.4A 6W Type 2	All staff (desktop arrangement)	All	Part of original office fit-out and individual cost not readily identifiable	
Proximity Card	Withheld*	All staff	All	Provided by Landlord	Negligible
Blackberry	BlackBerry 9900 smartphone (3G, Wi-Fi) 7.0 Bundle 2090	All staff above Assistant- Director level who have a need for such a device	All	~\$720	Network and telecommunica tions costs of \$67.71 per user per month excl. GST.
Telephone	Avaya Model 1068-1	All staff (desktop arrangement)	All	\$882	\$0. Does not include utility telecommunica tions costs.
USB Stick	Sandisk Cruzer USB 2.0 FlashDrive (indicative - various sizes)	Available to staff on request	All	\$7	\$0
Calculator	HP EasyCalc100 (indicative - various types issued)	Available to staff on request	All	~\$10	\$0
*Does not include energy costs or depreciation.					

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 200
Program: LCAL
Agency: LCAL
Topic: Electricity Purchasing – LCAL
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Provide an update of LCAL's electricity purchasing agreement. Provide details of when this was entered into and the length of the agreement.
2. What were the LCAL's electricity costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. What are the LCAL's electricity costs for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. Origin GreenEarth Electricity entered into 15 November 2010, ongoing contract.

2-3.

Year	Expense
2009-2010*	Nil, in serviced offices
2010-2011	\$2,865.12
YTD	\$6,074.63
*NB – LCAL had only three months of operation in the 2009-10 financial year and only moved into its own offices in November 2010.	

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	201
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Information for the Australian Greens – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Does LCAL provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Australian Greens? If yes, please provide the following information:

1. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
2. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each work produced.
3. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were and why it could not be undertaken.
4. How long is spent undertaking work and/or information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

Answer:

Please refer to the answer Question on Notice No. 202, which is identical with regard to the Australian Greens party.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	202
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Information for the Independents - LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Does LCAL provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Independents? If yes, please provide the following information:

1. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
2. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details, including who the work/information was for and a copy of each work produced.
3. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were, who they were from, who they were for and why it could not be undertaken.
4. How long is spent undertaken work and/or information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

Answer:

Yes.

1. The term “commissioning” implies a level of formality that does not always reflect the many ways that any information may ultimately end up being provided to members of parliament (MPs) and senators; such as:
 - by Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) sending information to MPs and Senators as part of keeping the Parliament informed;
 - by virtue of the fact LCAL’s Annual Report and/or other documents are tabled in Parliament;
 - by virtue of responses to Committees at Senate Estimates hearings and answers to Questions on Notice which are then printed in Hansard;

- by formal request through the Parliament using one of the many means available to any MP or senator or their staff;
- by formal request through ministers' offices or departments or the Parliamentary Library;
- by information supplied to departments or to ministers' offices that is then subsequently given to MPs or senators or their staff;
- by making the LCAL website available to the public; and
- by informal request by an MP, senator or their staff members.

2-4. As advised in the answer to part 1 above, most information provided to MPs and senators is not by way of formal request. Where it does come by formal request, LCAL takes the approach that it will provide Parliament with such information as it can reasonably provide on request. Where a request for information would require an unreasonable diversion of resources LCAL declines the request.

Apart from Senate Estimates Questions on Notice, LCAL receives few formal requests for information, and does not keep statistics on the origin of MP or senators' requests by political party affiliation (or non-affiliation). Capturing the kind of information asked for and collating the kind of statistics asked for broken down by political party affiliation (or non-affiliation) would not be a sound use of funding.

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

Budget Estimates 2012-13, 21 May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	203
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Shredders – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

Has LCAL purchased any shredders in the last 12 months? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer:

No.

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

Budget Estimates 2012-13, 21 May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	204
Program:	LCAL		
Agency:	LCAL		
Topic:	Access and Equity Strategy – LCAL		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Di Natale asked:

1. How does LCAL ensure that the Government's Access and Equity Strategy is implemented in its entirety and in relation to all agency activities? How does the LCAL acknowledge the multicultural character of the Australian society, in terms of the services and programs you provide?
2. How do you measure your success against Access and Equity goals? What evidence do you have that LCAL is actively implementing the Government's Access & Equity policy?
3. What changes will you implement over the next financial year to ensure your programs and services are more accessible to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities?
4. What is LCAL doing to ensure it has a culturally competent workforce?

Answer:

1. Low Carbon Australia Limited (LCAL) is a *Corporations Act 2001* public company under the *Commonwealth Companies and Authorities Act 1997*. It provides finance to Australian businesses, industry and government entities, either directly or through third-party finance providers.
 - LCAL's services are provided for under a Funding Deed with the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency that specifies compliance with federal legislation covering unlawful discrimination as a condition of funding.
 - LCAL incorporates these conditions into its contracts with third-party co-finance partners where appropriate.
 - LCAL's Board-approved Corporate Policies and Procedures reflect the Company's stance on unlawful discrimination and all staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy at induction and behave accordingly. This includes a well-developed complaints handling procedure.
 - LCAL's Code of Conduct requires staff to treat everyone with respect and courtesy and without harassment.

- LCAL operates a staff recruitment policy that is free of unlawful discrimination and has a culturally and linguistically diverse staff.
 - LCAL has a formal process for handling complaints and issues raised in service delivery and for appropriate escalation of these. As part of the process, LCAL's Executive is informed of issues raised or any complaints and regularly reviews handling of any business arising.
 - LCAL's physical sites are in wheelchair accessible buildings equipped with specific toilets for persons with disabilities.
 - LCAL is at present rebuilding its online offering to ensure that its website and online materials meet accessibility requirements for persons who are vision-impaired and/or from a non-English speaking background.
2. a) By regular review by Executive of causes of complaint/issues and by voluntary participation in the review of the Annual Report by the Institute of Public Administration Australia from 2010/11.
- b) See answer to part 1.
3. See answer to part 1.
4. The company has an inclusive culture, and its board-endorsed hiring and operating policies reflect this. See also answer to part 1.