

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Budget Estimates, May 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** BOM **Question 159**  
**No:**

**Topic:** BOM – Office rents

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** 17-18

**or Written Question:** (22/5/12)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

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Senator IAN MACDONALD: Can you tell me what rent you are paying in Melbourne for the head office and for the Victorian office?

...

Dr Vertessy: I can cite the statistics. The office accommodation costs at 700 Collins Street are \$9.9 million for a floor area of 17,051 square metres. At 1010 La Trobe Street, our regional office, the annual cost is \$1.01 million for a floor area of 2,132 square metres.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Can you give me those figures for all of your capital city offices? Why not go the whole hog and do it for all of your offices? I am sure you have it somewhere.

...

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Ms Middleton: I do not have the figures with me. I can do it on notice.

...

Senator IAN MACDONALD: I think Townsville is probably run by the RAAF, though, is it not? They would be very modest.

Ms Middleton: I do not have Townsville's figures with me.

Dr Vertessy: Sorry, Senator. We do not have Townsville's figures. But we will make sure we give them to you.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: You can get them to me on notice. I know you do not have a lot of staff, but you have more than I have. Can you give us a square metrage comparison on each one as well. That is dividing the square metres into the money.

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**Answer:** [NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, TO BE DELETED ONCE CLEARED: shaded areas have been revised from original response]

<b>Offices</b>	<b>Square Metres</b>	<b>OTHER COSTS*</b>	<b>2012 RENT COSTS</b>	<b>Rent Per Square Metre</b>	<b>TOTAL COST 2012</b>
<b>Adelaide Airport</b>	19,059	\$24,501.96	\$156,918.12	\$8.23	\$181,420.08
<b>Adelaide Regional Office</b>	2,167	\$219,492.26	\$527,712.69	\$243.52	\$747,204.95
<b>Albany</b>	27,000	\$19,342.53	-	-	\$19,342.53
<b>Alice Springs</b>	29,242	\$49,385.10	\$102,348.36	\$3.50	\$151,733.46
<b>Belmont Maintenance Centre</b>	656	\$32,649.12	\$51,985.96	\$79.25	\$84,635.08
<b>Brisbane Apt</b>	12,692	\$73,042.15	\$333,033.81	\$26.24	\$406,075.96
<b>Brisbane Regional Office</b>	1,410	\$309,832.12	\$851,157.60	\$603.66	\$1,160,989.72
<b>Broadmeadows</b>	160,040	\$333,222.37	\$567,284.64	\$3.54	\$900,507.01
<b>Broome Airport</b>	31,912	\$26,352.60	-	-	\$26,352.60
<b>Cairns Airport</b>	19,700	\$62,313.64	\$143,294.25	\$7.27	\$205,607.89
<b>Campbellfield Store</b>	3,100	\$69,328.48	\$221,708.04	\$71.52	\$291,036.52
<b>Canberra (Capital Jet Building)</b>	208	\$40,127.58	\$83,442.96	\$401.17	\$123,570.54

<b>Canberra Regional Office</b>	1,568	\$97,727.68	\$761,987.44	\$485.96	\$859,715.12
<b>Carnarvon Airport</b>	30,000	\$27,479.09	-	-	\$27,479.09
<b>Ceduna Meteorology Office</b>	3,020	\$24,444.39	-	-	\$24,444.39
<b>Charleville Airport</b>	34,010	\$21,577.33	-	-	\$21,577.33
<b>Cobar</b>	27,900	\$49,811.39	-	-	\$49,811.39
<b>Cocos Islands Meteorology Off</b>	69,888	\$41,596.47	-	-	\$41,596.47
<b>Coffs Harbour Met Office</b>	1,030	\$32,188.37	\$100.00	\$0.10	\$32,288.37
<b>Darwin RAAF Base</b>	38,300	\$98,778.00	\$146,185.47	\$3.82	\$244,963.47
<b>Darwin Regional Office</b>	1,160	\$203,173.19	\$382,800.00	\$330.00	\$585,973.19
<b>Eagle Farm Maintenance Centre</b>	503	\$52,465.56	\$129,345.27	\$257.15	\$181,810.83
<b>East Sale Aerodrome Road</b>	200	\$10,427.48	\$918.76	\$4.59	\$11,346.24
<b>Esperance</b>	44,515	\$31,704.98	-	-	\$31,704.98
<b>Eucla Bureau Of Met Office</b>	40,000	\$143,563.35	-	-	\$143,563.35
<b>Geraldton Meteorology Office</b>	29,800	\$23,647.93	-	-	\$23,647.93
<b>Giles</b>	38,231	\$7,836.45	-	-	\$7,836.45
<b>Gove Airport</b>	55,000	\$39,122.25	-	-	\$39,122.25

<b>Halls Creek</b>	9,772	\$39,841.50	-	-	\$39,841.50
<b>Hobart Airport</b>	1,300	\$49,517.64	\$16,999.92	\$13.08	\$66,517.56
<b>Hobart Regional Office</b>	1,420	\$80,593.25	\$503,249.76	\$354.40	\$583,843.01
<b>Hobart Workshop</b>	448	\$25,412.70	\$49,593.60	\$110.70	\$75,006.30
<b>Kalgoorlie</b>	94,404	\$45,544.73	-	-	\$45,544.73
<b>Launceston</b>	132	\$13,393.93	\$38,413.63	\$291.01	\$51,807.56
<b>Learmonth Airport</b>	100	\$38,496.05	\$2,936.63	\$29.37	\$41,432.68
<b>Leichhardt Maintenance Centre</b>	437	\$31,473.04	\$63,294.00	\$144.84	\$94,767.04
<b>Longreach Airport</b>	40,000	\$21,221.53	-	-	\$21,221.53
<b>Lord Howe Is</b>	8,203	\$39,175.42	\$3,262.29	\$0.40	\$42,437.71
<b>Mackay Harbour</b>	3,758	\$40,441.81	-	-	\$40,441.81
<b>Meekatharra Aerodrome</b>	19,600	\$16,608.38	-	-	\$16,608.38
<b>Melbourne Head Office</b>	17,272	\$2,601,231.60	\$7,745,484.85	\$448.44	\$10,346,716.45
<b>Melbourne Regional Office</b>	2,312	\$335,078.14	\$718,038.84	\$310.57	\$1,053,116.98
<b>Mildura Airport</b>	24,400	\$19,290.33	\$428.00	\$0.02	\$19,718.33
<b>Moree</b>	3,267	\$41,100.42	-	-	\$41,100.42
<b>Mount Gambier</b>	5,358	\$16,757.45	-	-	\$16,757.45

<b>Mount Isa Airport</b>	40,000	\$32,468.43	\$16,917.32	\$0.42	\$49,385.75
<b>Norfolk Island Meteorology Office</b>	15,986	\$57,781.42	-	-	\$57,781.42
<b>Perth Airport</b>	4,405	\$58,002.65	\$19,778.13	\$4.49	\$77,780.78
<b>Perth Regional Office</b>	1,918	\$504,571.47	\$567,086.82	\$295.67	\$1,071,658.29
<b>Port Hedland</b>	30,000	\$32,363.47	\$14,918.40	\$0.50	\$47,281.87
<b>Rockhampton</b>	37,110	\$52,433.53	-	-	\$52,433.53
<b>Smithton</b>	280	\$15,544.22	\$23,075.16	\$82.41	\$38,619.38
<b>Sydney Apt Met Office</b>	4,480	\$25,085.69	\$279,481.61	\$62.38	\$304,567.30
<b>Sydney Regional Office</b>	2,595	\$753,197.67	\$1,172,288.31	\$451.75	\$1,925,485.98
<b>Tennant Creek</b>	51,039	\$31,178.47	\$27,049.92	\$0.53	\$58,228.39
<b>Tindal RAAF Base</b>	26	-	-	-	-
<b>Townsville RAAF Base</b>	40,000	\$39,054.44	\$1,401.22	\$0.04	\$40,455.66
<b>Tullamarine Airport</b>	8,551	\$35,734.86	\$74,166.64	\$8.67	\$109,901.50
<b>Tullamarine Workshop</b>	413	\$23,126.15	\$33,453.08	\$81.00	\$56,579.23
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	9,016	\$18,114.38	-	-	\$18,114.38
<b>Weipa</b>	24,220	\$31,767.34	\$6,879.28	\$0.28	\$38,646.62
<b>Williamtown RAAF Base</b>	-	\$8,375.85	-	-	\$8,375.85

<b>Winnellie Albatross St Maintenance Centre</b>	820	\$30,196.37	\$103,636.32	\$126.39	\$133,832.69
<b>Woomera Airport</b>	-	\$16,071.50	-	-	\$16,071.50
<b>Willis Island</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	1,225,353	\$7,385,379.65	\$15,942,057.10	\$13.01	\$23,327,436.75
			<b>OVERALL AVERAGE COST PER m<sup>2</sup></b>		\$19.04

\* Other costs include security, cleaning, electricity, gas and other property operating costs.

^ These sites either have incurred no or minimal lease costs.

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**Program: Division or Agency:** BOM **Question No:** 160

**Topic:** BOM – Decentralisation

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** 18

**or Written Question:** (22/5/12)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Can you tell me on notice again not why you could not shift some of your head office operations out of Melbourne but what operations in head office could be decentralised somewhere else in Australia? I did suggest on notice, but if you have an immediate answer, that is fine.

...

Let us say I am a generous Treasurer. Unfortunately, that is unlikely to ever occur. If I said to you that money is not an issue, tell me what operations could be moved to Darwin, Broome or Alice Springs or somewhere else, technically. You might like to give a considered opinion and check with the staff. I know what the staff will say: 'No, we don't want to leave Collins Street.'

Dr Vertessy: We would prefer to take something like that on notice. We will give it a bit of careful consideration and see if we can come up with an intelligent answer for you.

**Answer:**

In considering any such moves the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) would want to ensure value for money. Assessing the feasibility of any program relocations would need to take into account:

- impacts on productivity, in particular delivery of essential services during transition to a new location;
- impacts on capability, including the ability to attract and retain scientific and technical staff;
- availability and cost of essential communications and power infrastructure to transfer data and support supercomputing capability; and
- financial impacts such as relocation costs for equipment, staff and exiting current lease arrangements.

The Bureau does not currently have the resources to fully cost a series of generic scenarios, hypothetical relocation possibilities. If a specific opportunity came forward that appeared feasible then the Bureau would undertake the necessary analysis to determine the feasibility of that opportunity and provide advice to the Australian Government.