

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22-23 MAY 2012

SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, WATER, POPULATION AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	1.1: AGLC	Birmingham	Provision of funding from Caring for our Country to Tasmanian forestry initiatives	Senator BIRMINGHAM: Previously has Caring for our Country funding been spent on Tasmanian forestry initiatives, or is this money that is just being reallocated from Caring for our Country to Tasmanian forestry as a totally separate activity? Mr Sullivan: There are two questions there. The second question is yes, this is money that has been taken. The answer to your first question as to whether Caring for our Country has provided funding for Tasmanian forest activities over the first four years to date, I will have to take that on notice.	58 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
2	1.1: AGLC	Siewert	Consultation process for Indigenous Protected Areas	Senator SIEWERT: I have already asked next door to make sure that MPs are included in the consultation process. Would you also be able to take on notice to provide us with the list of stakeholders you intend inviting to these consultations? Mr Sullivan: Yes, I will take that on notice.	64 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
3	1.1: AGLC	Joyce	Funding for control of feral animals	Senator JOYCE: ...What is your role in assessing? What reports have you given back? What studies have you done into wild dogs? Dr Dripps: I invite the relevant assistant secretary to come to the table. Ms Murray: Primarily the responsibility for the control of feral animals is the states' responsibility. I understand the department does provide some funding through the Australian government land and coast division. Senator JOYCE: How much funding have we sent in that direction? Dr Dripps: We will probably have to take that question on notice, Senator. The officers with me at the moment are officers involved in environmental assessment. The officers overseeing investment programs were here yesterday afternoon.	25 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
4	1.1: AGLC	Birmingham	Caring for our Country – regional base level funding	1. Please detail the regional base-level funding provided under Caring for our Country for 2011-12 and for 2012-13, by regional organisation and amount of funding. What, if any, reporting and evaluation requirements are associated with this funding? What, if any, say do state and territory governments have in the level of funding provided?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
5	1.1: AGLC	Birmingham	Caring for our Country – funding for Sustainable Focus	1. Can the Department indicate what, if any, federal funding – through Caring for our Country base-level funding or otherwise – went towards a series of community workshops conducted by Sustainable Focus, for the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, about project ideas that could be considered for funding under the community component of the Department's Environmental Works and Measures Feasibility Program?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
6	1.1: AGLC	Siewert	WA State barrier fence – Dingo management	1. Is the Department aware of this project? 2. Has the Department undertaken any assessment of the impact of this project? Please provide details of that assessment including who undertook it, who contributed to it and	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

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				<p>what it recommended. If no, please explain why not.</p> <p>3. Have any commitments been made by this Department from CfoC funding or any other funding allocation to support this project?</p> <p>4. Is the Department aware of the impacts that the efforts to minimise dingo populations have on the ecosystem? If yes, please provide details of those impacts. If no, does the Department plan to investigate this issue and in what timeframe?</p>			
7	1.1: AGLC	Edwards	Caring for our Country – Community Coastcare	<p>1. For the following listed projects, successfully funded under the Caring for our Country Community Coastcare 2008-2009 small projects (<\$50 000). Provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the original application for funding provided by the applicant organisation and/or the sponsor organisation. b. any reporting the applicant/sponsor organisation have provided to the Department (for example, MERI). c. any other documentation relating to these projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Habitat protection and visitor impact management at Davenport Creek, South Australia CC0783126. ii. Inaugural nearshore marine survey - Chain of Bays, Eyre Peninsula SA CC083119. iii. Glen Park samphire wetland restoration CC084747. iv. Scoping the shoreline: The impact of coastal activities on Eyre Peninsula's resident shorebirds CC083814. v. Improving biodiversity in the coastal environment of Point Westall/Smooth Pools as part of the South Australian "East Meets West NatureLinks" and within the proposed "Streaky Bay to Venus Bay CoastLinks" area CC082668. vi. Surfleet Cove landscape reconstruction CC085227. vii. Rehabilitation of the remnant coastal vegetation surrounding the nationally significant Coffin Bay wetlands system CC085238. viii. Caring for the Chain of Bays - community awareness raising and knowledge sharing CC084717. ix. Feral flora and fauna control at Back Beach, Streaky Bay CC085361 http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/community-coastcare/index.html. <p>2. For the following listed projects, successfully funded through the open call process (awarded in November 2010) under the 2010-2011 business plan. Provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the original application for funding provided by the applicant organisation and/or sponsor organisation b. any reporting applicant/sponsor organisations have provided to the Department (for example, MERI) c. any other documentation relating to these projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increasing Long Term Engagement of SA Rural Coastal Community 	Written		23/08/12

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				<p>Environment Groups OC11-00923</p> <p>ii. Indigenous and Community Partnerships Restoring the Chain of Bays OC11-00938</p> <p>iii. Landscape scale Reduction in Risk of Soil Erosion in the Flinders-Olary Bioregion OC11-01228</p> <p>iv. Large-Scale Restoration to Increase Kangaroo Island Threatened Plant Habitat OC11-01412 http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/approved/2010-11/pubs/successful-projects-open-call-2010-11.pdf</p> <p>3. It is understood that the grant provided for Project OC1100938 was devolved. Please provide the amounts it was devolved into, for which years and to whom the devolved funding grants were awarded. Provide any reporting that was received for the devolved funding grants.</p>			
8	1.1: AGLC	Edwards	Caring for our Country – Organisation eligibility	<p>1. Provide the following information:</p> <p>a. It has been established at the May 2011 Budget Estimates that eligibility for groups is tested by the Australian Government's Land and Coasts team based on information provided in completed applications. Does the Land and Coasts team only use the information provided, in the application completed by the applicant, or do they do additional research?</p> <p>b. Did the Department seek additional information about this group? (i.e. information not provided in their application) If so what information was sought?</p> <p>c. Did the Department speak with their regional staff with regards to this group? If so, what information was sought?</p> <p>d. Provide the interim and final reports on project outcomes and financial expenditure for funding given to this project</p> <p>2. For each of these projects: Project funded through the 2010-11 business plan projects open call process:</p> <p>a. OC11-00938</p> <p>3. Projects funded through Community Coastcare 2008-09:</p> <p>a. CC083119</p> <p>b. CC084727</p> <p>c. CC085361</p> <p>d. CC085188</p>	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
9	1.1: AGLC	Edwards	Caring for our Country – Conflicts of interest	<p>1. Do organisations have a requirement to report conflicts of interest - Is there a requirement for associations to report to you if grant funds are going to be paid to committee members of said associations in remuneration for work done by the member for or on behalf of the association?</p> <p>2. If this is the case, please provide all circumstances where this has occurred for South Australian based projects that have been awarded funding since and including the 2008-2009 financial year.</p>	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

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10	1.1: AGLC	Macdonald	Infestation of Yellow Crazy Ants in Little Mulgrave National Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What measures are being put in place by the Department to combat this new threat to agricultural interests and food safety? 2. Has the Government provided the \$286,000 sought by the Wet tropics management authority to investigate infestation of Yellow Crazy Ant in the World Heritage Area at Mt Peter in Little Mulgrave National Park? 3. What measures are being implemented to ensure Biosecurity Queensland is able to conduct effective surveillance for Yellow Crazy Ant colonies – one of the world's most invasive species? 4. Biosecurity Queensland have identified illegal dumping of green waste as the likely cause of the infestation at Little Mulgrave. Will the Government be providing Biosecurity Queensland the resources it requires to combat illegal dumping in order to curtail the spread of this destructive species? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
11	1.1: MD	Edwards	Management of marine reserves	<p>Mr Oxley: It is not something that we go to tender on. We go to them, because they are the agencies that have the in situ expertise around the management of marine reserves. We go through a negotiation with them about the nature of the services that we are looking for. They will be generally focused around compliance and enforcement activity and public awareness and education. We then agree a price for the nature of the service and then we enter into a business agreement with them for the delivery of those services over the course of a 12-month period. Over the past 12 months we have been going through a dialogue with them where, rather than renegotiating in detail the business agreements on an annual basis, we are trying to move to a three-year cycle with an annual review at the end of that cycle.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Is it done on a cost recovery basis or are they looking to profit?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I would have to come back to you with some clarification on that. We would generally be looking for value for money in terms of the service that we receive from the state, and we find a price that seems a reasonable price from a Commonwealth perspective.</p>	46 (22/5/12)	25/07/12 + att'ts	23/08/12
12	1.1: MD	Siewert	Deaths of Australian Sea Lions and Dolphins attributed to gillnetting	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Earlier in the day I was talking to AFMA. They told me to come here to ask about figures on gillnetting. They said that you keep national data on deaths to Australian sea lions from, for example, gillnetting. Is that correct and, if it is, can I have it?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: That would be broadly correct, but I do not have that at hand at the moment. Where we have sea lion interactions with Commonwealth fisheries there is a reporting requirement for those interactions, so we would have the data. I would just need to check whether we have the same arrangements in relation to state fisheries or not. I will come back to you with an answer, unless Mr Routh can add more at this time.</p> <p>Mr Routh: We could certainly take that on notice and check what data we have been supplied from WA. We are in discussion with them on the fishery that you mentioned earlier.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: I am interested in that fishery in Western Australia that I mentioned earlier, but I am actually interested in any other data from around Australia on the impact of gillnets. I am interested particularly in Australian sea lions but also in any data that you have</p>	51 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12

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				on dolphins, because I am aware that the South Australian fishery has issues around dolphins as well. Mr Oxley: Generally there are reporting requirements in relation to interactions with threatened species or protected species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. I am not sure whether our information will go down to the nature of the actual fisheries that have interacted, but if that is available we will provide that.			
13	1.1: MD	Boswell	Marine bioregional planning - ABARES socioeconomic assessment	Senator BOSWELL: I had a question on notice, No. 1563, which you probably answered. I asked: 'Has the government assessed the number of boats that trawl or fish in highly protected green zones, multiple purpose zones, general purpose zones and special purpose zones?' The answer I received was yes. Can you tell me how many boats? Mr Oxley: I cannot tell you today precisely how many boats, but we will take that on notice.	54 (22/5/12)	25/07/12 Updated answer, 12/09/12	23/08/12 20/09/12
14	1.1: MD	Macdonald	Meetings between the Minister and PEW group	Senator IAN MACDONALD: Could the minister take on notice if we could find out if the actual minister, the environment minister, would be prepared to tell us how many times he has met with representatives of the Pew group and who arranged those meetings? Was it a member of parliament or was it just done? Senator Conroy: I am happy to take that on notice.	65 (22/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
15	1.1: MD	Macdonald	Coral Sea sustainable tuna fishery	Senator IAN MACDONALD: ...I mention the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, which suggests to me it is a very sustainable tuna fishery in the Coral Sea. Has their view been sought or the view of others been sought on the sustainability or otherwise of the Coral Sea as a fishery? Mr Oxley: That one I will take on notice. Certainly we have an ongoing dialogue with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry about the marine reserves development process, and they feed their views into government in that regard.	66 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
16	1.1: MD	Boswell	Australia's percentage of world marine protected estate	Senator BOSWELL: Australia at present has approximately 35 per cent of the world's marine protected estate. What will Australia's total percentage of the world's marine protected estate be once all the marine parks are declared? Mr Oxley: I do not know, because many other nations around the world are also in the process of establishing marine parks. At any particular day the number is going to be different. Senator BOSWELL: As of today— Mr Oxley: I will take that on notice. Senator BOSWELL: I have been told it is 70 per cent, but can you confirm that? Mr Oxley: I can take it on notice. I do not have that number in front of me or in my head.	68 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
17	1.1: MD	Colbeck	Fisheries Adjustment Policy	1. A Fisheries Adjustment Policy and associated package is being developed, does DSEWPac have carriage of the policy and associated package? 2. Has any money been allocated in the current budget papers for the Fisheries Adjustment Policy and associated package? If so, how much is allocated and where is this documented in the current budget papers?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

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				3. Does DSEWPac make any payment to AFMA for the environmental monitoring AFMA does on behalf of DSEWPac? If so, how much is allocated for 2012-13 and where is this documented in the current budget papers?			
18	1.1: MD	Macdonald	Gulf of Carpentaria Marine Reserve	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have final Marine Reserve boundaries and zoning been determined? 2. Has the ABARES socio-economic assessment into the impacts of the marine Reserve been concluded and has it reported? 3. Has stakeholder feedback assessment been completed? Has a policy been determined? 4. Have commercial fishing interests been engaged through the process of developing the Marine Reserve proposal? 5. What has been the cost to date across all relevant agencies for developing the proposal? 6. What costs are estimated for the next financial year to further develop and deploy the proposal? 7. Have the details of the adjustment assistance program for the commercial fishing industry been finalised? Is further consultation necessary? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
19	1.1: MD	Madigan	Coral Sea Marine Reserve	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the department undertaken a cost benefit study of the effects of the proposals to declare large marine protected areas – such as in the Coral Sea? If yes – is it now, or will it soon be, available for public scrutiny? If No – why haven't you undertaken one given that, the compensation costs for the Great Barrier Reef areas far exceeded the original estimates? 2. What demonstrated specific threats to specific Coral Sea fish species warrant further closures of marine areas? 3. Given that existing marine protected areas have not been able to protect coral reefs from bleaching, nor have they been able to protect them from the effects of climate change, ocean acidification or ocean temperature changes – What demonstrated specific threats to biodiversity in the Coral Sea would closures there offer protection from? 4. Has any consideration been given or study been conducted into what effect these closures will have on the Australian Fishing & Seafood Industry? 5. Has consideration been given or studies been conducted into what if any adverse effects there will be on global fish stocks by closing large fish areas of Australian waters to fishing? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
20	1.1: PAD	Edwards	Caring for our Country – 2010-11 Departmental and Agency Contracts	<p>Financial Year 2010/11 Senate Order on Departmental and Agency Contracts Listing Relating to the Period 01 July 2010 – 30 June 2011 – DSEWPac Procurement Contracts http://www.environment.gov.au/about/contracts/pubs/2010-11-fy-senate-order-list.pdf</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide the details of the Commonwealth funding provided for the following acquisitions by the South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources in South Australia in the 2010-2011 financial year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hunthawang b. Naracoorte Caves National park 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Sceale Bay d. Rushy Swamp e. Kotthoff Grassland 2. For each of the acquisitions list the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The amount of funding provided b. The reasons provided to the Commonwealth by Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the acquisition c. Any conditions the Commonwealth may have attached for the provision of funding. 			
21	1.1: PAD	Birmingham	Camel numbers in Uluru National Park	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: What are your current estimates in terms of camel numbers in the park?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: I would have to take that on notice. I am not going to hazard a guess.</p>	37 (22/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
22	1.1: PAD	Cameron	Effect of increased carbon on ecosystems	<p>(Page 39)</p> <p>CHAIR: What other animals do you have that could be affected by CO2?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: We certainly have a number of browsers of vegetation, including eucalypt vegetation, such as wallabies, kangaroos and gliders that would eat sap from eucalypts and other species. As you point out, increased CO2 and increased growth rate can change the chemical composition of leaves and sap. I am not aware of any studies that are directly undertaken in our parks that address that particular question, but that is an interesting one. If I could take it on notice and I will ask the question.</p> <p>CHAIR: We have had evidence about the effects on koalas, so I assume that other animals who rely on these eucalypt leaves may have the same problem. I could not say that for sure. So, given that they are in your parks and you have some responsibility, we would appreciate it, especially on the view that these animals would not notice a doubling of the CO2, if anyone has any views on that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(Page 40)</p> <p>CHAIR: For the proposition that animals would not notice a doubling of the CO2, you will come back to me on that?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: I will, but there are two issues there. One is the direct impact, which I think is what you are saying, but there are indirect impacts that would be very difficult to tease apart. I do know there has been work done on that.</p>	39-40 (22/5/12)	12/09/12	20/09/12
23	1.1: PAD	Cameron	Implementation of the Parks Australia Climate Change Strategic Overview 2009-2014	<p>(Page 40)</p> <p>CHAIR: You have five objectives, which I will just run through quickly. They are to understand the implications of climate change, to implement adaptation measures to maximise the resilience of the reserves, to reduce the carbon footprint of the reserves, to work with communities, industries and stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to communicate the implications and/or management response to climate change. Obviously these objectives were determined back in 2009. Is it possible for you to take on notice how</p>	40-41 (22/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12

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				<p>you are moving to meet those objectives? Is that possible?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: Absolutely. We have used that overview and those five objectives to prepare climate change strategies for each of our parks now, and turned those general approaches into more specific approaches in each park.</p> <p>(Page 41)</p> <p>CHAIR: We get buried with paperwork at estimates. Is it possible for you to provide us with that in as concise a manner as possible?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: We will do our best to give you a concise answer.</p>			
24	1.1: PAD	Siewert	Prioritisation of funding for eradication programs on Christmas Island	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Could you perhaps take on notice what your current programs are and the level of funding?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: For things like cat eradication?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: Yes</p>	41 (22/5/12)	12/09/12	20/09/12
25	1.1: PAD	Siewert	National Reserve System targets	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I would like to move on to the NRS, where we are up to with meeting our targets and what was told next door to us in here about NRS funding from the next round of Caring for our Country. Firstly, can we go to where we are in meeting our targets?</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: As you would appreciate, there is a little bit of a time lag in collecting the data because a large amount comes from the states. About 106 million hectares are now in the conservation estate, which is 13.77 per cent of Australia. You will recall that it is not just a question of adding area to the conservation estate. We are working in areas that are not well represented in the conservation estate. I would have to take on notice how we are tracking on that, because I did not bring those figures with me, but the progressive inclusion of bioregions that have more than 10 per cent—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: If you could take that on notice that would be good.</p> <p>Mr Cochrane: Yes.</p>	42 (22/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
26	1.1: PAD	Waters	Potential impacts of major projects on the National Reserve System	<p>Senator WATERS: What coordination is there between the Commonwealth and the Queensland governments, in particular, that either is being undertaken or could be undertaken to avoid the loss of taxpayer investment through the NRS where this so-called protected land is actually subsequently to be mined?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: With respect to that—and I assume that you are referring again to Bimblebox—I would have to take that on notice and get the details for you. As I said, it is not my area of responsibility and I am unaware of the negotiations or discussions that have been happening.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you could take that on notice. Perhaps you might need to take this on notice also. I am interested in any other instances where this has occurred and essentially how much federal investment has been undermined literally as well as rhetorically to date.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: Again, I would have to talk to my colleague, but I think it is probably better that I just take that on notice and we will get that information to you.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Perhaps I can be a little more specific. Obviously the department would</p>	69 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12

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				track the size and the composition of the NRS over time. I am interested in the last five years on all areas that have been part of the NRS that have either since been removed or altered or exempted or offset or otherwise subject to mining and quarrying activities. Can we get a proportion? Lastly, given the extensive percentage of Australia that is now subject to mining tenure of some description—or petroleum tenure, for that matter—is the department doing any assessment work to determine what the potential impact of the resources boom might be on the NRS? Mr Sullivan: I am not aware of any, but I will take that on notice as well and look to see whether any analysis has been done.			
27	1.1: PAD	Boswell	National Heritage listing of Cape York – Acquisition of National Reserve System properties	(Page 12) Senator BOSWELL: I have notes here that it is \$20 million. I don't know where those notes came from. They may have come from my office. Dr Dripps: There has been an investment of \$20 million in the national reserve system up in Cape York. Mr Cochrane, who was here yesterday, would have the details and we can provide the response on notice, if you would like. ... (Page 13) Senator BOSWELL: So there has been \$20 million spent. Dr Grimes: That would have been for the acquisition of national reserve system properties. I can't confirm the specific number of \$20 million, but we certainly could take that on notice to confirm it. But there was a considerable amount of money allocated for the acquisition for the national reserve system properties.	12-13 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
28	1.1: PAD	Joyce	Australian National Botanic Gardens Non-Potable Pipeline Project	1. How much did the Australian government contribute to the Australian National Botanic Gardens Non-Potable Pipeline Project? How much did the project cost in total?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
29	1.2: Marine Initiatives and Rio+20 Taskforce	Birmingham	Changes to Greenland's quota	Senator BIRMINGHAM: In summary, what are the quota changes for Greenland and the other Indigenous subsistence countries? Are they up or down? Ms Petrachenko: I will just double-check on Greenland. For Russia, America and St Vincent and the Grenadines they are the same, so there is no change there. I think Greenland is looking to increase its quota by nine or 10 whales, but I would have to take that one on notice.	73 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12
30	1.2: Marine Initiatives and Rio+20 Taskforce	Birmingham	Pre-exploitation levels and percentages of Minke whales	Senator BIRMINGHAM: I understand that the IWC Scientific Committee is trying to update this, but what is Australia's best understanding at this point in time of the pre-exploitation levels and percentages of minke whales? Ms Petrachenko: I am going to have to take that on notice to make sure I do not misrepresent the views of the scientists. I will take it on notice and get you the exact answer.	74 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12

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31	1.2: SPAD	Waters	Desert Uplands bioregion	<p>Senator WATERS: I just have one short question. It pertains to the Desert Uplands bioregion. Given that it is, to my knowledge, the least surveyed bioregion in Queensland for flora and fauna, yet it now faces huge threats from coal and gas mining with obvious biodiversity implications, what funding will be invested by SEWPaC to support some comprehensive baseline monitoring of biodiversity? Are you the right folks to answer that?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: It is the right program area in which to ask it; whether I am the right person or not is another matter. The Desert Uplands bioregion—I think that is the reference—is not one I am familiar with. What I can undertake to do is check whether we are providing any funding to any of our National Environment Research Program hubs that might be doing some work in that area, noting though that, for the most part, the investments we are making in those NERP hubs are for research rather than for baseline monitoring or long-term monitoring. But, having said that, we may be allocating some money there.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Are there any other limbs of the organisation that are responsible for doing that baseline monitoring in any bioregion but particularly this one?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: There may be some activity which has spun off from the National Plan for Environmental Information, which is a portfolio initiative delivered jointly by us and the Bureau of Meteorology, but primarily the Bureau of Meteorology. Again, I would note that there is a very small amount of funding for that initiative, which is meant to seed the development of a national approach to data, environmental data in particular. Then, beyond that, there may be some funding which is provided and which is a function of the National Critical Research Infrastructure Scheme, which is actually administered by the department of industry and innovation. They have been funding the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network and there may be some monitoring in that quarter as well. So what I am undertaking to do is a bit of a scan for you to find out whether there is anything in that area.</p>	70-71 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12
32	1.2: SPAD	Birmingham	2011 State of the Environment report - distribution	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Where, to whom, and how was the full report distributed?</p> <p>Mr Richardson: There were obviously copies for tabling, and that was the reason why we needed to print copies of the full report. The majority of the reports that have been provided to date have been provided to academic institutions, libraries. They are available on request but they obviously have to last us for five years until the next report is printed, so we have been careful about how many have been let out the door.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: How many have been let out the door?</p> <p>Mr McNee: I am not sure we have the numbers for that at this stage. We will have to take it on notice.</p>	75 (22/5/12)	12/09/12	20/09/12
33	1.2: SPAD	Birmingham	2006 State of the Environment report	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Did you have many of the 2006 report left?</p> <p>Mr Richardson: The 2006 report was quite a small report. We do still have some copies of that left, and I will have to take on notice the print run.</p>	76 (22/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
34	1.2: SPAD	McKenzie	NERP funding	At what locations are the researchers supported under the NERP funding program located?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

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35	1.3: LST	Birmingham	Compensation for Mr Debus' services	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Including the chair, Mr Debus?</p> <p>Ms Lane: Mr Debus does get a payment for his work for the corridors advisory group and the Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board for a set number of days per month for those two roles.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: What is the set number of days that Mr Debus is compensated for across those two roles?</p> <p>Ms Lane: I do not have those details with me. I am happy to take it on notice but I think it is in the order of four to five days per month, from memory.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: And do you have the rate that he is paid for those four to five days?</p> <p>Ms Lane: I do not have those details. I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thank you. And as well, I assume, the per diem for the other four members of the board.</p>	77 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
36	1.3: LST	Birmingham	Biodiversity Fund – Assessment of applications	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: You talk about that two-stage process. You go through the score of eight and the other metrics involved there. Did that still basically mean roughly 320 applications considered, or was something bigger than that given the first overall look to compare the relative scores and those other metrics before they actually looked at the recommendations from that first assessment process?</p> <p>Ms Lane: I would have to take it on notice to give you an accurate answer on that. Because there were two stages in that process there may well have been some applications in the normalisation step that were not then considered in the highest quality group. I will take that on notice and get details to you about the exact number of applications that were considered in that process.</p>	79 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
37	1.3: LST	Birmingham	Biodiversity Fund – Independent Moderation Group rejection of recommended projects in the first assessment	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: ...Did that independent moderation group reject any of the recommendations of the first assessment stage?</p> <p>Ms Lane: I would have to take that on notice... I cannot recall what particular judgements were made about particular proposals. I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you with advice on that.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you could—and in particular if any were knocked out. But if there were, obviously—as you say, it was about the same number that they considered—it was not many.</p> <p>Ms Lane: I will take that on notice.</p>	79 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
38	1.3: LST	Birmingham	Biodiversity Fund – Ministerial approval	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Do you know when the ministerial approval was given?</p> <p>Ms Lane: I do not have those details with me. I am happy to take it on notice.</p>	80 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
39	1.3: LST	Waters	Biodiversity Fund – External probity manager's report	<p>Senator WATERS: I understand that there was a report compiled by the external probity manager who was engaged to run the assessment of the applications. Can a copy of that report be tabled, please?</p>	82 (22/5/12)	12/09/12	20/09/12

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				Ms Lane: I will have to take that on notice.			
40	1.3: LST	Waters	NHT 1 – Difficulty tracking investments	<p>(Page 82) Senator WATERS: Has the department tracked over time, or will the department track over time now that we have the Biodiversity Fund on foot, whether those revegetation programs funded are still standing in five, 10 or 15 years? I guess there are two parts to my question. One is whether, historically, you have tracked other revegetation projects that your section has administered. And will you now track projects that are funded under this Biodiversity Fund, again over time, to see whether they are still there in years to come?</p> <p>(Page 83) Mr Sullivan: It is actually a really good question, because we have had various approaches to monitoring and reporting through since NHT 1 days. The investment portfolio and what the status of those investments is now is something we are turning our minds to more, particularly in terms of the issue of what the monitoring and reporting requirements are going to be for Caring for our Country into the future and also with respect to the Biodiversity Fund. So, yes, it is clearly in our thinking of how we look at this, not just in the short term in an acquittal process or in terms of monitoring in a MERI context but also in the longer term—what is the investment return over the longer term? I know that some work has been done on that through the State of the Environment processes and other components of previous funding profiles but we have found that it is difficult to track previous investments from NHT 1. I think, again, there are lessons to be learned to make sure that those who sit in the seat in 10 years time are not saying the same things about the investments that we are making today.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you take on notice why you found it difficult to track the NHT 1 outcomes? I do not need a response now.</p>	82-83 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
41	1.3: LST	Waters	Biodiversity Fund – Applications received from Indigenous groups or Indigenous corporations	<p>Senator WATERS: ...I have one further question. I am interested in what proportion of applications made in Queensland were made by Indigenous groups or Indigenous corporations—if you have those figures to hand.</p> <p>Ms Lane: Applications, Senator, or recommended—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Both—applications and then actual approved projects.</p> <p>Ms Lane: I thought I had those statistics on Indigenous projects and applications for each state but I will have to take that on notice.</p>	83 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
42	1.3: LST	Di Natale	Biodiversity Fund – Assessment of grant applications	<p>Senator DI NATALE: I just have a few questions about the grants issued in Victoria. I am interested in how many applications were received in total versus how many were granted.</p> <p>Ms Lane: I do not have the Victorian application statistics with me, Senator.</p> <p>Senator DI NATALE: Can you take that on notice? I am interested in the department's criteria for assessing grant applications.</p>	85 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
43	1.3: LST	Di Natale	Biodiversity Fund – Grant awarded to the Victorian	<p>Senator DI NATALE: It is titled 'Managing fire to protect biodiversity, fight carbon and build resilient landscapes'.</p> <p>Ms Lane: I am not familiar with the detail of that particular project.</p>	85-86 (22/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Department of Sustainability and Environment	<p>Senator DI NATALE: Perhaps you might take some of this on notice then.</p> <p>Ms Lane: I am happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator DI NATALE: There is clearly a planned burns program in Victoria on at the moment, and I am just interested as to whether the specific grant in question is involved in any way in the planned burns program. That is the first question. And, in relation to the areas of native forest in which biodiversity assessments are going to take place under that particular grant, I would like to know whether any of the areas of native forests are going to be subject to the Victorian DSE planned burns program—and whether in fact there was any discussion with DSE, the applicant, of the planned burns program and how that would impact on that particular grant.</p> <p>Ms Lane: I am not aware of any discussions with DSE prior to the application but I am happy to take the general question on notice.</p>			
44	1.3: LST	Siewert	Biodiversity Fund – Indigenous projects land coverage	<p>Senator SIEWERT: And what land area are we talking about those covering?</p> <p>Ms Lane: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: If you could take that on notice—because obviously there is a large amount of Indigenous managed land.</p>	87 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
45	1.3: LST	Siewert	Biodiversity Fund – Indigenous employment opportunities	<p>Senator SIEWERT: That is was what I was going to ask. Is that 10 per cent of the value of the projects?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: Nineteen projects, totalling \$26.1 million, will be directly led by Indigenous groups and a further 10 projects, totalling \$21.7 million, will engage with the Indigenous community and create Indigenous employment opportunities.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Can you tell me the employment opportunities with the other 10 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: In terms of quantifying that, that is part of the contract negotiations in terms of getting final bounds around exact numbers. But we can take it on notice and get you what we can with respect to that.</p>	87 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
46	1.3: LST	Rhiannon	Biodiversity Fund – Koala populations in the Far South Coast of NSW	<p>Referring to the project: "Corridors & core habitat for koalas on the NSW far south coast" to receive \$1.9m under the Biodiversity Fund:</p> <p>One of the purposes of the Biodiversity Fund is to identify and protect corridors that are important for the survival and enhancement of species. In the case of the Corridors & core habitat for koalas on the NSW far south coast" project there are no corridors provided between the three areas designated to protect koalas, or between the State Forests areas and the private forest lands that are the subject of the CMA project also funded by the Biodiversity Fund with an aim of koala protection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How is it envisaged that the tiny identified koala populations expand to more viable numbers within State Forests while logging continues all around them and there are no corridors between them or between the State Forests and private forest areas? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The project appears to recognise that logging is a threat to koalas. What is the scientific rationale for a koala conservation project which provides for a temporary suspension of logging, not permanent protection, on some but not all known coastal koala habitat forest in Bermagui, Murrah and Mumbulla? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. On what basis did you make the decision to support a temporary suspension of logging to conserve threatened koalas? b. What was the rationale for protecting only some habitat forest? c. Please outline on what basis the areas not protected were excluded? d. Why wasn't Tanja forest included? 3. Will Forests NSW using the Biodiversity funds to buy in sawlogs foregone from not logging those areas probably from themselves from logging in a neighbouring region such as Tumut, but possibly from East Gippsland? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Do you acknowledge those estimates are based on grossly inflated estimates of timber yields? 4. Considering Forests NSW loses money on its native forest logging operations, why does it need to be paid not to log? 5. What proportion of the known far south coast koala population is believed to reside within the logging moratorium area? 6. What is the estimated quantity of sawlogs foregone by not logging those areas for the moratorium period and where are replacement sawlogs expected to be sourced? 7. In the event that FNSW purchases logs from itself in other areas, how will the transfer of funds appear in FNSW financial statements? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why does Forests NSW require Biodiversity Fund money to buy logs from itself? 8. What is the estimated quantity of pulp logs foregone in each of the project logging moratorium areas by not logging those areas for the duration of the project? 9. What is the estimated value of sawlogs and pulps foregone and by what means was this calculated in terms of yield per hectare and royalty price? 10. Will there be specific forests or compartments of forests which will be designated for more intensive logging for woodchips in order to obtain substitute pulp logs. If so, what are they? 11. Are you aware of comments by long term Pambula logging contractor Mr Norm Wilton that he doubted that alternative logging areas could be found to supply alternative logs. Source: "Mr Wilton, who logged the Bermagui forest in the past 12 months, said that the forests nominated yielded a high proportion of saw logs (more than 50pc) and such areas were limited. We are cut to the bone now there is just about nothing left, Mr Wilton said." http://www.naroomanewsonline.com.au/news/local/news/general/saving-the-far-south-coasts-koalas-impacts-on-logging/2558145.aspx?storypage=0 12. Are you aware that koalas have recently been sighted in forest adjacent to Mumbulla 			

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				State Forest and Tanja State Forest, which is scheduled to be logged shortly? 13. Given requirements in State legislation for koala protection why is the Commonwealth funding what the NSW government agencies should already be doing, and doing much more seriously and effectively than this Biodiversity Fund project provides for?			
47	1.3: LST	Edwards	Biodiversity Fund – Round One	<p>For the following successful applications under Round One, Biodiversity Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Sceale Bay Incorporated - Linking the Chain of Bays Eyre Peninsula • Natural Resources Management Board - WildEyre Conservation alliance: Implementing NatureLinks across Eyre Peninsula • Greening Australia (SA) Ltd- Integrated establishment of native perennial species on Eyre Peninsula • Australian Trust For Conservation Volunteers - The Barwon River Corridor biodiversity community champions project • Corangamite Catchment Management Authority - Implementing cost Effective revegetation and remnant protection by landholders <p>1. Provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The application for funding b. If the organisation intends to devolve funding over the funding period, provide the plans that show how the organisation will devolve the funding <p>http://www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/biodiversity-fund/projects/pubs/sa-round1.pdf</p>	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
48	2.1: EQD	Ludlam	Container Deposit Legislation – Boomerang Alliance submission	<p>Senator LUDLAM: ...I put it to you that in the Boomerang Alliance submission—maybe you have it in front of you and maybe you do not—their estimate of the value of unredeemed deposits, the ones that are not returned through the recycling process, is \$1.78 billion out to 2020. Does that figure ring a bell?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Wright: No, I do not, but I am familiar with that figure.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: You are aware of the model. Does that number hold water? Do you think it is an accurate reflection of the order of magnitude of unredeemed deposits that could be collected?</p> <p>Dr Wright: To the extent that the cross-jurisdictional working group has looked at this information, that figure is approximately correct. But it is only if it only holds for the first four years, so it is not an amount that would stay in the kitty for the duration; it would then get used up. It is an early aspect of that particular model.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Their table—which I have in front of me and will shortly table for the benefit of the committee, because I am going to ask you to either validate it or debunk it for me—shows that in the first couple of years out to 2016 it is not actually collecting very much and after that there is a reasonably steady revenue flow. In the 2020 out year it is up to \$280</p>	92-93 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12

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				million in unredeemed deposits. Why does your reckoning show that that money evaporates after four years? Dr Wright: I think we would need to take that question on notice because in order to do the explanation justice, so that it is clear, it would be better to follow up in writing. It is actually quite detailed and you have to look at a number of different aspects of the way the Boomerang Alliance model is constructed.			
49	2.1: EQD	Heffernan	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Binding Mercury Instrument – International negotiations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By being involved in the international negotiations, your Department has already acknowledged that mercury is the most toxic metal/gas in the environment. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and please provide details? 2. SEWPAC is at the negotiation table for the globally binding mercury instrument, they have been funding the research into atmospheric emissions of gaseous mercury in Australia through the chemicals partnership area, they control water and the methylated mercury that bioaccumulates in fish comes through the water flowing from abandoned mine sites. Do you agree or disagree and please provide details? 3. In a letter dated 29 November 2011, your Acting Assistant Secretary Charmayne Murray is quoted as saying “there is no urgent need to remove mercury from gold mines in Australia”. Could you please explain to me why it is that your Department is wasting public funds on the international negotiating process whilst it has a view that the mercury at disused gold mines in Australia does not represent a threat to matters of National Environmental significance. 4. How much money has been spent by your Department on this international negotiating process? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
50	2.1: EQD	Heffernan	National Waste Policy Implementation Plan	<p>Could Department please provide details of a timetable and total departmental funding allocated to date for the following parts of Outcome Number 5 of the National Waste Policy Plan (Page 21, Table 6) and how much of each allocation has been spent to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying hazardous substance locations across Australia for the persistent, bio-accumulative and highly toxic metal mercury; 2. Managing and minimizing the intergenerational legacy issues resulting from mercury at historical gold mining sites across the Australian landmass; 3. Developing best available evidence, techniques and technologies including details of international conferences on mercury that your staff have attended since 2010 to increase the departments knowledge base on mercury; 4. Identifying stockpiles of the toxic hazardous waste mercury in rural and remote areas; 5. Victoria has recently taken the globally unusual (dare I say totally reprehensible) step of reclassifying mercury in the environment as a non-hazardous mineral when it is in the ground, but classifies it as a hazardous waste when it is out of the ground. (Despite the fact this same government handed out 17.5 pound containers of mercury to prospectors in the early gold mining days. It should also be noted this mercury had previously been 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

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				<p>mined and processed overseas prior to it arriving in Victoria. Somehow, rather miraculously, this hazardous material transformed itself back into being a mineral after it had been lost into the environment during gold mining operations, where it is still largely percolating through the rivers and streams, today.)</p> <p>6. Could you also please provide details of funds allocated to educate the National Waste Plan State Lead Agencies identified within Table 5 of this Plan, on the intergenerational risks of mercury in the environment and the planning schedule for this educational program.</p>			
51	2.1: EQD	Heffernan	Funding allocated to documenting mercury pollution	<p>In light of the pending introduction of the Globally Binding Mercury Instrument by the UNEP the revised MDB draft does not mention the water quality issues relating to mercury and arsenic pollution for the Murray River Ramsar zones and the Murray Darling Basin in general. 45.64% of New South Wales and 40.38% of Victoria have been subject to historical gold mining activity it is disappointing that this globally critical toxic metal pollution issue has not even been mentioned in the revised MDB plan. This lack of recognition will have a significant impact on all of the Murray Darling Basin farming communities once the globally binding mercury instrument comes into force.</p> <p>The revised draft does not mention sedimentation issues resulting from logging activities in great dividing range in both Victoria and NSW. The bulk of the mercury and often times arsenic pollution that flows into the Murray River RAMSAR Zones comes from historical gold mining areas in Victoria and in particular the Upper Goulburn river historical gold mining area and the Ovens Valley historical gold mining areas.</p> <p>...</p> <p>1. Could you provide details of funds allocated by the Department over the next 5 years to better document the extent of mercury pollution across the Australian continent.</p>	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
52	2.1: EQD	Boyce	Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative - Funding	<p>1. I refer to a submission by Dr Jennifer Pearson of the Australian Association for Environmental Education stating that since 2010, annual funding for AuSSI has been “drastically” cut. Can you detail the detail, size, timing and rationale for those cuts?</p> <p>2. The Prime Minister, Minister for School Education and the Environment Minister have all affirmed their support for AuSSI. Does the Department think the program in question has value and is working?</p> <p>3. From your knowledge will the AuSSI program will be continued next year? And if not, why not?</p> <p>4. Where will the funding afforded AuSSI be redirected to?</p> <p>5. According the statements by DEEWR and the DSEWPaC, AuSSI complements and links already existing environmental and sustainability projects in Australian schools. Can you provide specific programs that AuSSI has complimented and linked?</p> <p>6. What substitute sustainable education programs will replace AuSSI in the 3200 Australian schools that have employed the program and what programs of similar objective will be</p>	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

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				made available in schools on a wider basis?			
53	2.2: SPAD	Ludlam	Suburban Jobs Program – consultation process	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Could you table the list of groups that you consulted with at all stages of that program? I understand that, as would be appropriate, your coverage of local government authorities and their collective or regional bodies was pretty good. I am just interested though in how much more broadly you went beyond that. We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: We are happy to table that. We have that available but we are happy to provide it on notice.</p> <p>Mr McNee: I think we originally tabled a list of organisations we consulted early last year. Do you want the full list again or just the additional ones?</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: No, since then. My understanding—correct me if I am wrong—is that this is it. Once you have spent all the money we are done.</p>	97 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
54	2.2: SPAD	Ludlam	Suburban Jobs Program – application process	<p>Senator LUDLAM: With that in mind, do you prioritise areas where Mr Quigley is going first? So you will be aware that they are having to spot this thing out in different parts of the country and the network, provided it is not ruined by a potential future government, will gradually mesh together until it covers the whole country. If I am a local government authority trying to create local jobs in the suburbs, was there any consideration by you folk about targeting areas where the NBN is going first? Does that make your life easier, or is it not looked at?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: There are two things there, without going into the details of applications that were received, which I know you will appreciate we cannot really talk to. One is the nature of the guidelines themselves. Following consultation in the development of the guidelines—and we did release draft guidelines for comment—the NBN component has been incorporated into the overarching program funding stream, because the feedback from potential proponents and more broadly recommended that substantial integrated projects were more likely to provide benefits than ones dedicated to or aligned along the NBN. The second part of answering that question is that we really left it up to proponents to demonstrate to us that they were seeking to take advantage of the NBN rollout or other broadband technologies which would be advantaged by the NBN rollout at a future time in the applications that they put to us. Summing up, the NBN element and the technology element of applications was one thing that we took into account.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Was it explicitly mentioned in some of the applications that you got?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: ...Is anybody in the sustainable communities program unit looking at the need for affordable commercial space across suburbs in growth areas? There are suburbs that have been rolled out that do not have footpaths, because it is assumed you drive everywhere, and do not have so much as a corner shop, because it is assumed you will drive to the local megaplex 20 kilometres over the horizon. That makes commercial affordable space a</p>	98-99 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12

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				<p>potentially limiting factor for suburban jobs. Is that factored in it all?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: No, I do not think it is.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: That is going to be tricky. Are you working with the major cities unit in Minister Albanese's portfolio?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes, we are, quite closely. In fact, some colleagues from the major cities unit form part of the assessment panel that we put together for the projects.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Excellent. I suspect this might change your answer that you are not really looking at affordable commercial space. I suspect, on reflection, that part of the agenda of the MCU or of distributing jobs across suburban areas, where they are very sparse at the moment, is just that—to create or redistribute affordable commercial space. I might ask you to take that on notice and see if that can be made a priority, if it is not already.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I should say, too, that I may be misunderstanding your question, so I might not be answering it very clearly.</p>			
55	2.2: SPAD	Ludlam	Sustainability Indicators – compatibility with private enterprises	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Maybe it is too early for you to tell me this but will the set of indicators that you are putting together be compatible with what the Green Building Council has already put together?</p> <p>Mr McNee: Rather than hazard a guess, which it would be at this stage, I would be happy to take that on notice and come back with an assessment.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: The Property Council recently launched their Make My Cities Work project. There you go. They appear to have beaten the Commonwealth to it as well. There is a set of quantifiable, measurable indicators particularly around big urban areas. It is quite a clever project. Is what you are putting together compatible with that?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Again, we would probably need to check that to be specific.</p>	100 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
56	2.2: SPAD	Fisher	Renewable Energy Atlas	<p>Senator FISHER: It was question No. 50. I asked about correspondence between your department and the other. The answer is that there is no formal correspondence but there were six emails. Aren't they correspondence? Can't I have a copy?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I think we were just being specific there. Whether you can have a copy of those emails I will have to take on notice.</p>	101 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
57	3.1: AAD	Birmingham	Antarctic Ocean Alliance marine reserve proposal	<p>(Page 104)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Noting that there is not necessarily a reference that even comes to the parliament for an amendment or an annexure to an existing treaty or the like, would a decision to support such an MPA at least require cabinet or ministerial approval? What sort of public consultation and engagement could there be that may at least provide scope for comment for any fishers affected or anyone else with an opinion?</p> <p>Dr Fleming: At the moment the procedure is that, as I have said, we have an interdepartmental committee which considers proposals for each CCAMLR meeting. We also have the consultative forum, where we talk with fishing industry representatives and conservation group representatives and we discuss the proposals coming forward at</p>	104-105 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12

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				<p>CCAMLR. Those proposals will be discussed through that forum. I am quite new in the job, so I do not have the history of running many CCAMLR meetings. But CCAMLR has only adopted one marine protected area in the past and that was south of the South Orkney Islands. I do not know the procedure that the Australian government worked through to adopt a position on that marine protected area. I suspect Australia was quiet in the discussion because that is in an area distant from Australia.</p> <p>(Page 105) Senator BIRMINGHAM: Perhaps if you could take on notice if there is anything that can be added in regard to especially the opportunity for some degree of public consultation or comment should there be any impact on Australia's interests aside from just the preservation interests—that would be appreciated.</p>			
58	3.1: AAD	Singh	Removal of asbestos from Mawson, Casey and Davis stations	<p>Senator SINGH: When asbestos is removed, I presume it is removed by a qualified asbestos removalist who is either on staff or brought down to the station. Is that correct? Dr Wooding: I would have to take that on notice, Senator. I believe so, but I will give you some confirmation on how that is done. Senator SINGH: When it is removed, where is it taken? Is it taken to McRobies in South Hobart or is it taken to somewhere else? Dr Wooding: ...I would have to take that on notice as to where we would take it as a general rule.</p>	107 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12
59	3.1: AAD	McKenzie	Submission to the Chief Scientist's state of science in Australia report	<p>Senator McKENZIE: ... Did the division make a submission to the Chief Scientist's examination of the state of science in Australia around the education and higher education aspects? Dr Fleming: That was preceding my appointment and preceding Nick's appointment, but I understand that we did make a submission to the Chief Scientist. I do not have knowledge of what was in that submission. Senator McKENZIE: If you could just provide that on notice that would be great.</p>	107 (22/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
60	3.1: AAD	McKenzie	Number of scientists active in Antarctica	<p>(Page 107) Senator McKENZIE: Absolutely. Okay. Of the 90, how many are student researchers completing their doctorates or postdoctoral work? Dr Gales: To give you the exact numbers I would have to take that on notice. (Page 108) Senator McKENZIE: That would be great. Dr Gales: I am very happy to provide those. In general terms, we do have a lot of students going down as part of PhD projects in particular. It tends to be at that level that they are participating in the fieldwork and there is a lot of student work back here, of course, in dealing with the data. But we can provide those figures for you. Senator McKENZIE: Yes, can I have a breakdown of the 90 on page 57. Also, I am assuming that there would be another whole program of visitations down there that would</p>	107-108 (22/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12

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				involve a lot of young, budding scientists—in addition, that would be fantastic. Then if we could look at domestic versus international for those postgrads, that would be great. Dr Gales: We can provide you with information on that. We are building up new PhD programs on quantitative Antarctic science as well, so we can provide you with that information. Senator McKENZIE: It sounds very exciting. I look forward to reading it. Around the institutions collaborating, I presume the majority of those are international universities? Dr Gales: It is mostly university-based. There are some other research based organisations, but they are mostly— Senator McKENZIE: If we could have a breakdown of those as well, that would be great. Thank you.			
61	4.1: OWS	Boswell	Independent Expert Scientific Committee – Analysis of Natural Resource Management regions	I refer to Minister Burke’s announcement on March 22 that \$9.2 million in funding will go to 23 national resource Management regions to undertake an analysis of their local environment and potential impact on water resources from coal seam gas and coal mining developments: 1. What NRM bodies are to receive this funding and how much funding is going to each NRM body? 2. What are the terms of reference for undertaking this analysis? 3. Over what areas are bioregional assessments proposed? 4. What are the terms of reference for the “bioregional assessments”? 5. Why is this funding to go to NRM bodies rather than other bodies that may have greater expertise?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
62	4.1: OWS	Joyce	National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development	1. How many other state governments than Queensland have signed the National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development to establish the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on coal seam gas? If not all States have signed on, when do you expect all State governments to sign up? 2. Has the Department confirmed that the new Queensland government will honour the previous Queensland government's commitment to the agreement?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
63	4.1: WED	Joyce	Sale of water in the Lower Balonne-Condamine catchment area	Senator JOYCE: How much water has been offered to you for sale in the Lower Balonne-Condamine? Ms Harwood: I would have to take the offer figure on notice. We have purchased a certain amount from the tenders we have run. I am not sure whether I will have the offer figures with me here.	70 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
64	4.1: WED	McKenzie	Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program – Expenditure on infrastructure	Senator McKENZIE: I think there is a lot of debate around who has met their end-of-valley targets already and who has not, but in terms of the budget—and I will put some questions on notice around that—how are the recent budget deferrals of the \$941 million affecting the rollout of those environmental efficiency programs? ... Ms Harwood: Firstly, I am not sure where that \$941 million figure came from. I cannot find a	73 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12

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				<p>way of arriving at it from the actual changes reflected in the portfolio budget statement. But, yes, with some moneys for the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program there has been some movement of funds. That is more a reflection of delays in program rollout due to a lot of wet weather—so wet weather delays in actual construction—and approval processes for some projects, but it does not affect the actual delivery of all the works we have under contract and coming in under contract. So there is sufficient budget there in the SRWUIP fund to deliver all the projects that we have scheduled and contracted and that are coming in and being negotiated at present.</p> <p>The additional funds for on-farm are included in that SRWUIP appropriation, as are the additional funds for the strategic subsystem retirement. The ratio of funding for infrastructure to buyback is now much in favour of infrastructure; that is, the amount of funds available next year for expenditure on infrastructure is, I think, more than three times—I can take it on notice to confirm it—what is available for purchase of water direct.</p>			
65	4.1: WED	Joyce	Targeted Water Purchase Initiative – Number of non-strategic water trades	<p>Senator JOYCE: How many offers in the 700 that you received were deemed to be non-strategic under this tender?</p> <p>Ms Harwood: Some trades that were offered were not confirmed by the irrigation water provider. Basically, they were not eligible in the expression of interest. I might just check. I do not have the precise number with me.</p>	Written & 78 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
66	4.1: WED	Xenophon	Cancellation of the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns program	<p>It has been indicated in the Budget papers that the rationale for the cancellation of the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns program was that proponents have not met the conditions of their funding agreements or due diligence requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please provide examples of the conditions not being met? 2. Will the Government be providing any further assistance to enable cities and towns to become more water efficient? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
67	4.1: WED	Xenophon	On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program	<p>Minister Burke has recently verbally indicated that there are some issues that need to be addressed in relation to the eligibility criteria for this on-farm irrigation program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department indicate how this is being addressed? 2. What work has the Department done in respect to analysis of the market-based approach to water buybacks? For example, can the Department provide any analysis or confirmation that the market will not be skewed against those who have had not been able to access the on-farm irrigation program? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
68	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program - Expenditure	<p>For each of the programs comprising the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program please detail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much has been expended on proposals under each program in each budget year since its establishment? How many proposals have been funded? How much funding had been made available in each of the budget years? How many proposals were received? How is the program promoted? What assistance is available to assist applicants with applications? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
69	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program – Committed projects	For each of the programs comprising the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program please detail: 1. Please provide a breakdown of the currently committed projects under the SRWUIP, and detail water infrastructure projects in the Murray-Darling Basin returning water to the Commonwealth, water infrastructure projects where water savings are retained in the region and expenditure not resulting in any water savings in the Murray-Darling Basin.	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
70	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Menindee Lakes Joint Evaluation Team	1. What is the role of the Federal NSW joint evaluation team to investigate potential project options at Menindee Lakes? 2. What is the composition of this team? What terms of reference exist? Does the team have a date by which it is expected to report? What options are being considered? What progress has been made?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
71	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Private Irrigators Infrastructure Program South Australia	1. What were the original estimates of expenditure for this program when it was announced? How does this compare to expenditure that has eventuated? How much was budgeted for rounds 1 and 2? What is being done to increase the take up of this program?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
72	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Irrigation efficiency systems	1. In reference to Question on Notice 061 from February Estimates please detail the system efficiency for each of the 16 listed water providers at the time of modernisation planning. By how much was efficiency improved at each site? 2. Please explain why there did not appear to be a significant relationship between system efficiencies and location of the 16 irrigation water providers.	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
73	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Adelaide Desalination Plant - Milestones	1. In regards to the Adelaide Desalination plant, which milestones haven't yet been met? Please detail total payments made to date? What payments outstanding? Please provide details of what each of the milestones are.	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
74	4.1: WED	Hanson-Young	Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project Stage 2	1. Regarding QON 80 from Budget Estimates about NVIRP stage 2, can the Department please provide the business case referred to in the answer? 2. Can the Department please provide documentation evidencing the due diligence that has been completed regarding NVIRP 2?	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
75	4.1: WED	Hanson-Young	Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program New South Wales – submission of documents	1. Can the Department please table the following documents submitted by Murray Irrigation Ltd and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd to the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program in New South Wales between 1 October 2010 and 18 January 2012, that respond to the following criteria that are set out in the funding guidelines prepared by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities: a. Risk Assessments for the proposed project both during the construction phase and on project completion, including a description of how the risks will be managed b. Details of how the project will contribute to regional employment. c. Details of direct effects on the value of production (not flow-on or multiplier effects), or reduction in costs of production resulting from implementation of the project.	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Details of how the project will attract other investment in the region, and the expected quantum of additional investment. e. Evidence of compliance with relevant Australian Government, state and local legislation and approval processes, including the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) and/or an outline of the process to achieve these approvals. f. Evidence that the project is technically feasible and the investment is appropriate to the project objectives and needs of the irrigation system and its customers. g. A cost-benefit analysis for the project, compared with a 'no change' option in accordance with the Australian Government guidelines). This analysis should describe in detail all options considered, and the assumptions and calculations undertaken as part of the analysis. h. A detailed project budget (including expenditure timelines). i. Evidence of access to financial resources to meet any co-contribution as well as ongoing operational requirements, including letters of commitment detailing cash amounts and in-kind contributions from other project partners. j. Details of the operator's current water charging arrangements, including the asset management approach used to determine forward-looking capital expenditure needs (i.e. renewals annuity or regulatory asset base (RAB)), tariff structure (with current customer charges) and method of calculating and applying termination fees k. Details of how the project investment, both co-contribution and Australian Government funding, will impact on customer water charges. l. A description of how the ongoing operating costs and capital replacement costs of the project will be recovered (see page 17 of Program Guidelines - Water pricing in integrated water management projects). 			
76	4.1: WED	Joyce	Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program - Budget	1. I refer you to p. 6-41 of Budget paper no. 1 for 2012-13 and Budget paper no. 1 p. 6-38 for last year's budget 2011-12. These pages include spending under the infrastructure water savings program, known as Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program. Can you confirm estimates that arise from these tables show that the government is planning to spend almost \$219 million less on infrastructure savings this financial year, 2011-12, than predicted last year? What is the reason for this reduction?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
77	4.1: WED	Joyce	Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program – Water recovery	1. Over what time frame will the government's target to recover 600 GL from the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program? Can you provide a timeline of the expected recovery of this water by year?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
78	4.1: WED	Joyce	Targeted Water Purchase Initiative	1. How many successful bidders were there for Targeted Water Purchase Initiative in Southern Murray-Darling Basin? How much water was sold and how much did it cost?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			in the Southern Murray-Darling Basin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How many offers to sell water were received in the Expressions of Interest phase of this tender? 3. How did the Department determine whether an offer to sell water was strategic or not? 4. Did the Department seek the permission of irrigator scheme operators before accepting offers to sell? If so did any irrigator operators object to the sale of water? 			
79	4.1: WED	Joyce	Strategic Sub-System Reconfiguration Pilot Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the announced Strategic Sub-System Reconfiguration pilot program differ from the Targeted Water Purchase Initiative just completed? 2. How will the government involve irrigation scheme operators in determining whether under-utilised or inefficient water infrastructure should be decommissioned? 3. Have any irrigation infrastructure operators supported the proposed Strategic Sub System Reconfiguration Pilot Program? 4. Have irrigation infrastructure operators recommended any changes to this program? If so, what are those changes and what has the government's response been to them? 5. Will the government require an assessment of any potential environmental costs of decommissioning irrigation infrastructure? Say, for example, if leaks help create an artificial environment or ecology? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
80	4.1: WED	Joyce	Water buyback programs - Budget	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why has the government reduced the administered funds allocated to the buyback program in 2012-13 by \$89 million? 2. Is the government considering any further tender rounds to purchase back water over the next financial year? If so in what catchments will these tenders occur? 3. The government has budgeted \$310m a year of water from 2014/15 onwards for water recovery "subject to willing sellers". What happens if not enough willing sellers come forward to meet the water recovery targets? 4. Can this \$310 million per year from 2014-15 be used to recover water through water saving infrastructure or by investing in environmental works and measures? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
81	4.1: WED	Joyce	Water tender conducted in the Condamine-Balonne catchment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you provide an update on the outcomes of the recent water tender in the Condamine-Balonne catchment? 2. How much water was offered for sale and how much was bought? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
82	4.1: WED	Joyce	Toorale Station	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I refer you to an article The Australian on 17 May 2012 titled "Price of station a 'rip-off' on taxes". That article refers to Tony Burke stating the government will spend \$4 million to decommission "some of the irrigation network". What would this work involve and what would be its environmental benefits? 2. I refer you to another article in The Australian on the 16 May titled "\$24m for Australia's biggest birdbath. Is it correct that protected species of birds are preventing the decommissioning of the dams at Toorale? Is there any change that a full decommissioning plan will be implemented? If so, what will be the cost of this decommissioning? If not all of the dams are decommissioned at Toorale can production start up again at the station? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

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83	4.1: WED	Joyce	Budget Measures – On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did the government decide to expand the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program by \$150 million? 2. When will the government begin taking tenders for the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
84	4.1: WED	Joyce	Budget Measures – National Urban Water and Desalination Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I note that the government has reduced funding to the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan by \$25.7 million. Is the remaining \$201.9 million in funding under this program contracted to specific projects? If not, is it allocated to specific projects or will there be further decisions about how to spend this money? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
85	4.1: WED	Joyce	Budget Measures – National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I note that the government has reduced funding to the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns by \$25.7 million. Some of this funding has been reduced because a number of urban water projects have not met the conditions of their funding agreements. What were these projects and how much funding were they to receive? 2. Is the remaining \$96 million in funding under the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns contracted to specific projects? If not, is it allocated to specific projects or will there be further decisions about how to spend this money? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
86	4.1: WED	Joyce	Negotiations on Menindee Lakes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the status of negotiations between the government and the NSW government on works on Menindee Lakes? 2. How much water are works at Menindee expected to contribute towards the sustainable diversion limit set by the basin plan? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
87	4.1: WED	Joyce	Expenditure for water programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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? <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	25/07/12	23/08/12
88	4.1: WED	Joyce	Adelaide Desalination Plant - Payments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When will the government complete payments to the South Australian government for the Adelaide Desalination project? Have payments under this program been held up for any reason? If so, why? Have any milestones been missed? If so, which ones? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
89	4.1: WED	Joyce	Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project – Water recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please provide a breakdown of how much water is expected to be recovered under NVIRP via the Goulburn or the Victoria Murray catchments? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
90	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Small Block Irrigators Exit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide details on when the 5 year exclusion for land expires for grants paid to date. Under this program can an irrigator sell land to a neighbour who may have excess 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

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			Program	water and allow them to use it on this land?			
91	4.1: WED	Edwards	Port Pirie Community Water Reuse Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The \$2.5 million Cities and Towns funding arrangements require the project to be completed by 30 June 2012. Are any elements of either the Nyrstar and Council elements of the project currently operating? 2. Is the June 30 2012 deadline for completion of all elements of the project going to be met? If not, why not? 3. I understand that this project commenced on 10 September 2010. In light of the June 30 2012 funding deadline, why has it taken until March 2012 for contracts for tenders to be advertised and awarded? 4. How much less water will be used in this first year as sourced from the river Murray? 5. Have there been any problems in dealings with the major private partner Nyrstar? Or with consultants and contractors? 6. Considering progress thus far, how much water is due to be recycled in the first year of the projects operation? 7. How much of this will go to the Council? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
92	4.1: WED	Joyce	Release of a refined purchase plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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? 2. Does the government plan to release a refined "purchase plan" in the future? If so when? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
93	4.1: WRD	Birmingham	Correspondence between the South Australian Premier and the Minister	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: The South Australian Premier has apparently written to Minister Burke. Has that letter been received?</p> <p>Senator Conroy: I can take that on notice for you.</p>	50 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
94	4.1: WRD	Waters	Reporting of changes to characteristics of Ramsar wetlands	<p>Senator WATERS: ...Has the Ramsar secretariat contacted the federal government over its failures to report adverse changes to any listed Ramsar wetlands, particularly to the Gippsland Lakes in Victoria—or to any other Ramsar sites, for that matter?</p> <p>Mr Slatyer: In regard to the Gippsland Lakes, the Ramsar secretariat did pass on to us a notification by a third party of changes in the character of that lake system. That is the normal procedure: that is, whenever a third party approaches the Ramsar secretariat directly with a proposition that there has been a change in ecological character, the secretariat then refers that to the department. In the case of the Gippsland Lakes system we then go through a process to establish the validity, I suppose, of that claim. With that particular claim we have undertaken an assessment which is currently with the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment for checking and confirming that the conclusions and information in that report are okay with them. As soon as we have their feedback we will finalise that report and submit it to the Ramsar secretariat.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you possibly also take on notice and table for us if the Ramsar</p>	74 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				secretariat added any matters of substance when they referred to you that third-party information that had been sent to them. Mr Slatyer: I will take that on notice.			
95	4.1: WRD	Birmingham	Water for the Future Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has consideration of the water for the future review progressed since February estimates? How? 2. When did the Government receive this review? When was this review first presented to cabinet? Has Cabinet requested further information or changes from the department in relation to any aspect of this review? Will it be released? Will there be a government response? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
96	4.1: WRD	Hanson-Young	Water quality monitoring in the Lower Lakes and Coorong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department please outline how many water quality monitoring sites are currently installed in the lower lakes and Coorong, and also how many monitoring indicators there were in those places every year for the past decade? Does the Department intend to fund the installation of further monitoring sites in order to ensure water quality and salinity targets can be met? 2. Has the Department had any discussions or negotiations with local government or state government in regard to improving the barrages? Please provide details of those discussions and any outcomes. 3. What was the amount of funding that the Federal government gave to the states to help improve the issues relating to the Narrows and the removal of the Bund? How much of that money has been allocated and spent, and what outcomes were achieved? What auditing and accountability has been applied to ensure that those issues were addressed through the expenditure? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
97	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Budget measures – Water Reform Division	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why has the government decided to reduce funding for the Murray-Darling part of the department by \$22.2 million in 2015-16? 2. Exactly what cost savings are going to make in 2015-16 and how can you so accurately predict those demands in three years time? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
98	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Budget Measures – Murray-Darling Basin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What volume of water entitlements has been secured for the Murray-Darling, to go towards the sustainable diversion limit set by the basin plan, to date via infrastructure projects? 2. How much has been spent on infrastructure projects which have delivered or are expected to deliver water savings into the Murray-Darling to contribute towards the SDL set by the basin plan? 3. What volume of water entitlements has been secured for the Murray-Darling, to go towards the sustainable diversion limit set by the basin plan, to date via infrastructure projects? 4. Of the 2,750 gigalitres of water that is planned to be diverted from productive to environmental use in the Murray-Darling Basin, how much will be acquired via infrastructure investment and how much via entitlement purchase? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

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99	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Water for the Future Program review	1. Please provide an update on the Water for the Future program review. When is it due for completion?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
100	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Murray-Darling Basin Plan - Additional support to irrigation communities	1. Has the department been considering any ways to provide additional support to irrigation towns and communities to lower water after the basin plan? If so, what are those plans?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
101	4.1: WRD	Xenophon	Rationale for the termination of programs	I refer to the termination of the Raising National Water Standards Program and the Australian Water Fund. 1. Can you please indicate the rationale for the cancellation of these programs?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
102	5.1: HWD	Macdonald	Personnel on the UNESCO World Heritage Committee	Senator IAN MACDONALD: Could you on notice refer me to a website that would give me who the personnel on that World Heritage committee are? I assume it would have their qualifications for being on that committee. Dr Dripps: We can certainly provide you the linkage to UNESCO's World Heritage committee home page. I have looked at that home page recently and I do not believe that it includes the names of the individual members from the countries. But we can undertake to attempt to provide that material for you. Indeed, we will try to do so by the time the heritage output is discussed tomorrow morning.	31 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
103	5.1: HWD	Macdonald	UNESCO Mission – effect of major projects on World Heritage sites	Senator IAN MACDONALD: I understand that the World Heritage council was urged, if I might say for want of a better word, by WWF to have a look at Gladstone Harbour. Is that correct? Are you able to confirm or otherwise that information? Why did the World Heritage committee take this interest in Gladstone? Was it at the urging of WWF or the IUCN? Dr Dripps: I would have to take some advice from the officials involved at the time of precisely what drew the matter to the attention of the World Heritage committee. They do undertake a regular scan of things that are occurring worldwide and take a particular interest in World Heritage sites. But we can take that on notice.	32 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
104	5.1: HWD	Cameron	Correspondence between the Australian Government and the New South Wales Government	CHAIR: ...As I understand it, in 2008 the minister wrote to the New South Wales state government on this issue. Dr Grimes: I am not aware of that correspondence. Mr Hooy: That is correct. I am aware that the minister did write expressing concern about that. CHAIR: What is the response from the New South Wales state government? Mr Hooy: I am not aware of the response but I can take that on notice. CHAIR: So there is ministerial correspondence on this going back to 2008? Mr Hooy: No, that is the limit of my knowledge of the issue. CHAIR: Can you take on notice any correspondence going back to 1997 on this matter between the Commonwealth and the state government?	5 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				Dr Dripps: Certainly.			
105	5.1: HWD	Birmingham	Melbourne Royal Exhibition Building – grant application	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: When did the department receive an application for the grant that is being provided to the Melbourne Royal Exhibition Building?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Dripps: The decision on the grant that has been provided to the Royal Exhibition Building was a matter that emerged through the budget process.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: So there was never an application received?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: We would have to take on notice whether there was an application received.</p>	6 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
106	5.1: HWD	Birmingham	Museum of Victoria – project funding	<p>(Page 7)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Has the department ever had any correspondence with the Museum of Victoria about funding this project before the budget?</p> <p>Mr Hooy: I would have to take that on notice. I know that there have been discussions with one of my directors, going back some time, about the general condition of the building. I am not aware of a formal request.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: No formal request that you are aware of for this funding. Did the department ever deal with any representations received by either the Prime Minister or the minister from Mr Bandt in relation to the heritage building?</p> <p>Mr Hooy: I would have to take that on notice, but not as far as I am aware.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: Really by the sounds of it, this came as a surprise to the department out of the budget process. There were no grants received beforehand, no correspondence received beforehand, no briefings provided beforehand, but the department is now administering this \$20 million contract and grant. Is that a fair precis of how the budget process appears to have worked in this instance?</p> <p>...</p> <p>(Page 8)</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM: ...The question is: is it a fair summary that this grant really just materialised out of the budget process as a pleasant surprise for the department to administer and to oversee the money going to the Museum of Victoria?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: I wouldn't describe it in those terms. It was a matter that was considered through the budget process. As Mr Hooy has indicated, we can take other aspects of this on notice.</p>	7-8 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
107	5.1: HWD	Wright	2012-13 Budget - Heritage and Wildlife Division's budget position	<p>Senator WRIGHT: ...My first question relates to the level of program support allocated to heritage activities. It is not clear from the current portfolio budget statement what level of program support heritage activities will receive in 2012-13. Of the \$42.3 million allocated for program 5.1 in that year, how much of that will be spent on heritage related activities as opposed to wildlife related activities?</p> <p>...</p> <p>(Page 9)</p> <p>Dr Dripps: ...I have figures in front of me about why it is different from last year, but I am</p>	8-10 (23/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>not sure I have figures in front of me to answer that question of precisely how much goes to wildlife and how much goes to heritage. What I can say, though, is that as the secretary has indicated there was a terminating program last year which had an impact on the division on the budget of the heritage division. In addition, within the reported heritage budget last year, there was some work on the EPBC taskforce and some one-off funding to fund a wildlife permit system. So that and the efficiency dividend that has been applied is the explanation of how we got from \$48 million to \$42 million in departmental funding. May I take the rest of the question on notice?</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Yes, I would be pleased if you would do that. In last year's budget the heritage division was allocated just over \$13.3 million in program support. Are you able to give me comparative figures for the coming year and also over the forward estimates? What we are trying to find out is the heritage budget again in terms of program support. Can you give me those indications?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: I can do my best to take those questions on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: I guess I am particularly interested in the trend in relation to the heritage division specifically. So I presume, even if you don't have those figures now, you will need to do those figures. So if you could take that question on notice, I would appreciate that.</p> <p>Dr Dripps: Indeed, and what we will also give you is the administered funding that is administered by the heritage division in terms of the grants that it administers, and also funding that we receive from other sources for heritage related activities—in particular, the Kokoda initiative in Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: I am now looking at the total program expenses for program 5.1. From 2011-12 there was a baseline of \$63.2 million. Total program expenses are predicted to drop by 16 per cent to \$52.93 million in 2015-16. A loss of your community heritage grants accounts for \$4 million of that cut, and I note with regret that the government does not intend to continue this important program beyond 2012-13. But my question is, where will the remaining \$6 million in cuts come from and what impact will this long-term cut in total program expenses have on the activities of the heritage division?</p> <p>(Page 10)</p> <p>Dr Grimes: While Ms Stone and Dr Dripps are looking at the table, I will say that my suspicion is that again this goes to the question you asked on the breakdown on the divisional budget. The administered items there are very clear in the table that you have referred to in the budget papers. Unless they have further information now, I think it will be answered in that material that has been taken on notice.</p>			
108	5.1: HWD	Wright	2012-13 Budget – Impact on staffing	Senator WRIGHT: Is it possible to be more specific about which of those job losses might come from the heritage division specifically?	10 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			levels	<p>Dr Dripps: Not at this stage. They are management decisions that are yet to be taken.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: When would it be likely that you would be able to provide an answer to that?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: We could endeavour to do so by the deadline for questions on notice, because that coincides quite nicely with the beginning of the financial year when we need to do it.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Wright, we have to move on.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Yes. If you could take that on notice.</p>			
109	5.1: HWD	Singh	UNESCO inspection of Australian convict sites	<p>Senator SINGH: Do you work with the state government on meeting that time frame of UNESCO's requirement to have the visitors centre removed because it is anachronistic? And I can't agree more, actually. Obviously it is going to be at a cost. So is there anything in the forward estimates or is there any kind of plan to meet that? We have some time. I think it is six years, isn't it, until the next inspection or the time frame for it to be removed?</p> <p>Mr Hooy: That is right. I would like to take that question on notice.</p>	11 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
110	5.1: HWD	Boswell	National Heritage listing of Cape York – Indigenous consent	<p>Senator BOSWELL: Can you tell me which Indigenous communities you have talked to and what councils you have talked to about this matter?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: Given the number of officers involved in the meetings, it might be best if we took that question on notice so that we can be sure that we give you a complete list.</p>	12 (23/5/12)	12/09/12	20/09/12
111	5.1: HWD	Waters	Provision of information to the UNESCO monitoring mission	<p>Senator WATERS: So did the department advise the World Heritage committee or the UNESCO monitoring mission when they were here about those exemptions that I just mentioned? Did the Australian government provide any maps or any data of the actual on-ground situation?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: As you are aware, Senator, the World Heritage mission visited Australia from 6 to 14 March and undertook—and I had better ask Greg Terrill to come to the table—I believe, over 100 meetings with various parties and inspections of quite a lot of the reef all the way from Gladstone up to well north of Cairns up to Lizard Island. So in terms of the precise provision of the information that you refer to, I do not have at hand the exact information about what was given to who on precisely on which day, but we can find out for you.</p>	14 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
112	5.1: HWD	Joyce	Koala – experts and studies undertaken	<p>Senator JOYCE: Did you know whether they did any in Western Queensland and where they did them?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: I do not know myself precisely which studies were undertaken. I have undertaken to provide you on notice a list of experts, a list of studies and a list of fieldwork that was undertaken in the preparation of this listing.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Give me some of the data sets for your population data and where they were.</p> <p>Ms Callister: I can actually provide you a copy of the listing advice if you would like it.</p>	27 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
113	5.1: HWD	Wright	Heritage and Wildlife Division	<p>1. During last year's hearing on 25 May 2011, Senator Scott Ludlam asked for a summary of funding to the heritage division over the last decade to be tabled. My understanding is</p>	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Funding	that he never received a response to this question. Accordingly, would you please provide a table summarising the heritage budget over the last decade, including both program support and grant programs?			
114	5.1: HWD	Wright	Heritage Projects Jobs Fund	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What evaluation processes were put in place by the Department to measure the economic, social and environmental benefits of the \$60 million Heritage Projects Jobs Fund? 2. How many jobs were created as a result of this \$60 million dollar investment in heritage conservation? 3. Have the wider economic benefits of the Heritage Projects Job Fund been measured, for example the impact on community revitalisation, heritage tourism and property values? 4. We understand there were two independent reports commissioned to evaluate the social, economic and environmental dividends of the Heritage Projects Job Fund. Is this correct? 5. Have these evaluation reports been made public? If not, does the Department intend to publish them and what is the timeframe for that? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
115	5.1: HWD	Wright	National and Commonwealth Heritage List Assessments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessments for the National Heritage List seem to have come to a standstill in recent years. The Tarkine was the only place listed on the 2011-12 Priority Assessment List and many of the places on earlier Priority Assessment Lists have had their completion dates pushed back by at least 12 months, if not years. Why are so few assessments being completed and why are so many assessments are being delayed? 2. How many places under assessment for the National Heritage List have a current assessment deadline of 30 June 2013? 3. How many National Heritage List assessments are expected to be finalised in 2012-13, given the significant backlog? 4. During last year's hearing on 25 May 2011, the Department indicated to Senator Scott Ludlam, that assessments for the Commonwealth Heritage List were expected to continue at a significant rate. Has this been borne out? 5. How many Commonwealth Heritage List assessments will be finalised in 2011-12, and how many are expected to be finalised in 2012-13? 6. Have the cuts to Program Support in the last few years had an impact on the number of assessments being completed for the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
116	5.1: HWD	Wright	Australian Heritage Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last year's Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) included the launch of an Australian Heritage Strategy by June 2012 as a key performance indicator. In recent weeks a public consultation paper has been released and the closing date for submissions is 15 June 2012, so it seems pretty clear that the Strategy itself is a long way from being launched. Is that correct? 2. Why the delay in developing an Australian Heritage Strategy? 3. Once submissions on the current consultation paper have been processed, will the Government release a draft Australian Heritage Strategy for consultation? 4. What form will that consultation process take? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				5. What is the timeline for release of a draft Australian Heritage Strategy? 6. When do you expect to launch the finalised Australian Heritage Strategy?			
117	5.1: HWD	Wright	Register of the National Estate	1. The Australian Heritage Council in its submission to the Hawke Review recommended that the RNE be retained as a statutory list 'until all places can be assessed for possible inclusion in an appropriate heritage list or appropriately protected in another statutory way'. This advice was not taken and the RNE lapsed on 19 February 2012. How many former RNE places (including non-Commonwealth places) have been left without alternative statutory protection as of 19 February 2012? 2. Is the Department continuing to work with State & Territory heritage agencies to assist them in transferring places from the RNE to their own heritage lists? 3. What steps has the Department taken to ensure that the RNE is maintained as a publicly accessible archive? 4. Will the RNE archive include information on those places given interim listing status but never actually listed on the RNE? 5. We understand that in addition to the 400 or so places already transferred from the RNE to the Commonwealth Heritage List, an additional 120 RNE 120 places have been identified as potentially eligible for protection under the Commonwealth Heritage List. What process does the Department have in place for assessing these remaining places and how long is it expected to take?	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
118	5.1: HWD	Wright	Review of the <i>Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976</i>	A review of the <i>Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976</i> and consideration of the requirements arising from the UNESCO 2001 Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage was undertaken by the Department in 2009: 1. I understand that a report on the outcomes of this review is currently being developed. When will this report be released? 2. Nearly 3 years have passed since the review was announced. Why has it taken so long for the Department to develop a response? 3. Did the 30% cut in the Heritage Division's program support, made back in 2011-12, impact upon the timeline for developing a response to the review? 4. In developing the report, has the Department undertaken any consultation other than the call for submissions made back in June 2009? If so, please provide details of the consultation process.	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
119	5.1: HWD	Wright	Australia's ratification of the UNESCO 2001 Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage	1. Does the Department have a proposed timetable for Australia's ratification of the UNESCO 2001 Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

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120	5.1: HWD	Di Natale	Leadbeater's Possum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What action is being undertaken in relation to the Commonwealth's Leadbeater's Possum recovery plan? 2. Particularly after the 2009 bushfires, the required action to undertake habitat assessments is more critical than ever; what steps are being taken with regard to assessing habitat for the Leadbeater's Possum? 3. Is the department is assessing whether Leadbeater's Possum habitat can be listed as critical? If so, what is the extent of this work, and its timeframe? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
121	5.1: HWD	Heffernan	Key Threatening Process – Mercury pollution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could you further explain and provide details why your Department has not made mercury pollution a key threatening process under the EPBC Act? 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
122	5.2: EACD	Waters	Queensland Water Commission report – Surat Basin	<p>Senator WATERS: On coal seam gas, the Queensland Water Commission has just—I think it was last week—released its draft underground water impact report for the Surat Cumulative Management Area...The question that I am interested in is that it reaches a conclusion about the cumulative impacts on groundwater which is actually different from the conclusion reached by Arrow Energy in their environmental impact statement seeking federal approval under the EPBC Act. Again, on the cumulative impacts of coal seam gas on groundwater in the Surat. Is the department aware of that discrepancy and can you explain it?</p> <p>Mr Parker: We will have to take that question on notice. The specifics of what is in the Arrow environmental impact assessment we would need to refer to the part of the department that does the EPBC process.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: ...The flow-on question, which you might also need to take on notice, is: which information will the Commonwealth rely on? Will it rely on a Queensland government statutory body assessment which says cumulative impacts will be so much or will it rely on that Arrow EIS, which in fact says cumulative impacts will be worse—counterintuitively, given that it is a proponent-driven document? That is my question: which will the Commonwealth rely on when it is doing its various assessments? If I may ask a supplementary question, will those documents be referred to the new independent CSG committee once it is established, assuming the bill passes, to examine? Sorry, Dr Grimes; you have got something?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: I was just going to say that we would rely on the best possible information that was available at the time. We would obviously have to make an assessment of what we considered to be the best possible information, and of course we would be relying also on advice from the Independent Expert Scientific Committee in future matters that are being considered.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. Perhaps in that question on notice reply you could outline how you identify which is the best information, the criteria and parameters.</p> <p>Dr Grimes: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	73-74 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12

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123	5.2: EACD	Cameron	Canyon Coal Mine – Coalpac Pty Ltd's obligations to stop polluting the World Heritage area	<p>CHAIR: What obligations does Coalpac Pty Ltd have to stop chemical discharge from its closed Canyon Coal Mine from polluting the World Heritage area?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: There are a range of obligations that relate to the protection of World Heritage areas, and they come from both state and Commonwealth law... It might be best, Senator, if we were able to provide the detail of the obligations that relate to this company as a response on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: I would appreciate that. Could that be a chronological approach?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: Yes.</p>	5 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
124	5.2: EACD	Cameron	Canyon Coal Mine – Estimates of the damage to the World Heritage area	<p>CHAIR: What are the department's estimates of the damage to the World Heritage area as a result of the chemical pollution flowing into the Grose River?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: I do not believe we have that information on hand. We can take that question on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>CHAIR: ...Could you then advise on notice—I am happy for that to be on notice—as to what steps have been taken once you have understood the environmental damage that is taking place?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: Yes, certainly.</p>	5 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
125	5.2: EACD	Cameron	Canyon Coal Mine – Legislative powers to enforce action from Coalpac Pty Ltd	<p>CHAIR: Could the Commonwealth use its powers under section 51(xx) of the Constitution—that is, the corporations power—to legislate specific action and obligations on Coalpac, which is the owner of the Canyon Coal Mine, to remedy the pollution, given the failure of the state government to use its powers to impose obligations to clean up the pollution?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: We would not be in a position to answer it now. We can take it on notice and see if there is anything that we can provide you on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: Okay. This is a similar question, but I want you to take it on notice as well. Could the Commonwealth use its powers under section 51 (xxix)—that is, the external affairs powers—to impose obligations on Coalpac to desist from polluting the World Heritage area?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: Again, Senator, that would be something that would be more appropriately taken on notice.</p>	5-6 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
126	5.2: EACD	Boswell	South of Embley Bauxite mine – Possible breach of the EPBC Act	<p>Senator BOSWELL: The Wilderness Society submission goes on to suggest that the minister consider whether the proponent had provided false and misleading information and may be guilty of an offence under section 489 of the EPBC Act. Did the department consider whether Rio was in breach of section 489?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: I would have to take advice from the officers involved, who are back in the department at the moment, so I would like to take that question on notice.</p>	35 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
127	5.2: EACD	Boswell	South of Embley Bauxite mine – provision of advice to the Minister	<p>Senator BOSWELL: I refer to the Wilderness Society submission about the bare-rumped shear-tail bat and the crab species. This valid request included that. What other significant information was available that the minister made the decision on? Was there any other significant information, or could you nominate the significant information?</p>	40 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				... Mr Knudson: In making this decision on 15 March, the minister considered advice from the department, from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the proponent and two public comments received during the invitation to comment period. Senator BOSWELL: Could you furnish a copy of that advice, please? Dr Dripps: We can take that question on notice, Senator. Senator BOSWELL: Is there any reason why that advice could not be given to us? Dr Dripps: Only if it contained commercial-in-confidence material. I would need to check that, Senator, which is why we would prefer to take it on notice.			
128	5.2: EACD	Birmingham	Western Australian Land Authority (Landcorp) Court Decision	Senator BIRMINGHAM: The plaintiff's action, Landcorp, was successful against the government? Mr Knudson: On one element, yes. Senator BIRMINGHAM: Can you describe that element for me? Mr Knudson: It was as you described it, the issue of natural justice. Senator BIRMINGHAM: What failings were there that denied that issue of natural justice to Landcorp? Ms Jones: Unfortunately, I do not have the full details of the judgement here. It is publicly available, so I would probably prefer to take that on notice to accurately come back to you on the detail.	44 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
129	5.2: EACD	Heffernan	Thomson River Catchment ecological report	1. It cost companies over \$150k to get an EPBC permit for the Upper Goulburn River project, a particular company applied for a second EPBC permit for a project in the Thomson River catchment in Victoria and the EPBC Department asked them to spend \$80,000 on an ecological report for the catchment in the full knowledge that DSE Victoria were going to "controlled burn" the same area at the same time without any form of EPBC permit. – How do you justify a fee of \$80,000?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
130	5.2: EACD	Heffernan	Mercury removal from the Upper Goulburn River	1. Your department has already issued an EPBC permit for a project in Victoria to remove mercury from the Upper Goulburn River (EPBC 2010/5477). Please provide a briefing paper and/or update into this matter?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
131	5.2: EACD	McKenzie	Wild dog baiting	1. Where is the Victorian Government's wild dog baiting application, submitted under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act currently at? 2. What is the department's view on the difference between wild dog baiting currently occurring in QLD and NSW and proposals for Vic?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
132	5.2: EACD	McKenzie	Regional Sustainability Plans	At Estimates, Ms Cameron confirmed that the department is specifically developing those generic research skills around developing data and collecting, understanding and analysing data around environmental, social and economic criteria in a regional context: 1. If this is possible for the regions chosen under the Regional Sustainability Planning program, is it not possible for the regions of the Murray Darling Basin?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Will all these people be based in Canberra? How will they gain knowledge of the areas they're drafting plans for? What sort of consultation will be involved? 3. Do they look at sustainability holistically or just environmental? Please outline the methodology underlying the definition of sustainability with regard to the development of regional sustainability plans. 4. How often is this focus reviewed? 5. What is the definition of regional used by the department in developing locations for these? 6. Does this area of the department share its expertise with other areas of the department? Across government? 			
133	5.2: EACD	Macdonald	Tiwi Island Land Remediation	<p>The Government has announced \$1m of funding for remediation of land affected by the Tiwi islands Plantation project. The implementation of the Rehabilitation Management Plan is being guaranteed by a call for a \$1m bank guarantee from the original project proponent:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Government committed to the remediation? 2. Is it usual for the Government to seek a bank guarantee to secure funding for a land remediation project? 3. What other projects for and remediation and regional development are also reliant upon this type of financial management to secure appropriate funding? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
134	5.2: RRT	Waters	Draft COAG Communique – Regulatory Reform	<p>(Page 7) Senator WATERS: Did you brief the minister on the draft COAG communique, rather than the SEWPaC communique? Dr Grimes: Yes, with both communiques we provided oral advice to the minister and his office prior to both meetings. Senator WATERS: Did that include canvassing the potential risks of fast-tracking bilateral approvals? Dr Grimes: When it goes to the question of policy advice that we provided to the government, I do not feel that I am able to go through all of the policy matters that we may have provided advice on. ... (Page 8) Dr Grimes: It may be best if I take questions of that sort on notice and reflect on what material may be able to be provided to you.</p>	7-8 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12
135	5.2: RRT	Waters	Regulatory Reform – Inquiries into costs to proponents for complying with the EPBC Act	<p>Senator WATERS: ...I note you are saying it is not the department's role to establish the cost or the time delays to proponents for complying with the EPBC Act. Can I infer from that that the department has not commissioned any independent assessment of that either? Are you aware of whether any other departments have looked at that question? Given that it is a matter that sits within your jurisdiction, I would hope they would let you know if they were doing that.</p>	37 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Dr Dripps: There is a range of different reviews undertaken by government into the economic efficiency of the economy and the impacts of regulatory burden on industry. I would have to take it on notice to provide you with a list of the recent inquiries.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Do they pertain to this particular point?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: They can. There are inquiries undertaken by the Productivity Commission, for example, into things such as this. I would like to take on notice to provide you with a recent list of relevant inquiries.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thanks. I would be really interested. I would love to know that there is an evidence base other than just what proponents claim, so that is good. Thank you.</p>			
136	5.2: RRT	Waters	Regulatory Reform – Notification to the department of the Business Advisory Forum’s and COAG’s Communiques	<p>(Page 37)</p> <p>Senator WATERS: ...I want to move now to the COAG communique of 13 April and the business advisory forum’s communique of the day before. When was the department first advised about the business advisory forum’s planned communique and the COAG communique of the following day?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: Senator, I am going on recollection here, but I think matters around the communique were considered a couple of days before the business advisory forum meeting. I would have to check to be very clear on precise timings, but it was a couple of days before.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Was the department consulted on those draft communiqués?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: As I indicated, yes. Yesterday, yes, there were some discussions with us around the communique. We did not have primary carriage for the communique, as you would understand.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Did you make any suggestions for alterations?</p> <p>Dr Grimes: We made some suggestions to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Were they adopted?</p> <p>...</p> <p>(Page 38)</p> <p>Senator Conroy: It falls within asking the officer to comment on the government’s final position. If you would like to put that in writing, I can take that on notice and see if there is anything further we can progress for you.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Well, can you answer the question, then, please?</p> <p>Senator Conroy: What I have said is I will take it on notice.</p>	37-38 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12
137	5.2: RRT	Waters	Regulatory Reform Taskforce staffing	<p>Senator WATERS: ...What resourcing pressures are there for the department with the fast-tracking of approvals bilaterals, as agreed by COAG? How many folk have you got working on this? Are there in fact enough people to support the creation of the federal standards and then to establish those approvals bilaterals by March next year?</p> <p>...</p>	38 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12

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				<p>Mr Burnett: There are seven officers, Senator, although not all of them are full time, so it is probably about five on a full-time equivalent basis.</p> <p>Dr Dripps: And then we will be supporting the work of those negotiations back in the department. We have obviously technical expertise in terms of the way in which bilateral agreements work. So we will be providing whatever support is necessary to ensure that those standards can be developed appropriately.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you take on notice from whence those seven officers are being drawn and what program will now be seven people short?</p>			
138	5.2: SSD	Cameron	Objectives of the Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978	<p>CHAIR: So you have, basically, obligations to make sure that anything that happens in the mines does not have a spillover effect on the World Heritage areas. Would that be, crudely, how it works?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: Yes. That is correct.</p> <p>CHAIR: So there are specific obligations on mines outside the heritage area to comply with certain legislative requirements?</p> <p>Dr Dripps: That is right, Senator. We can undertake to provide a summary of the objectives of the Alligator Rivers act on notice.</p>	16 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
139	5.2: SSD	Ludlam	Retention ponds – permeability lining	<p>(Page 18)</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM:...I have questions about the retention ponds that the company is putting on site. Can you confirm for us whether or not ERA are using four-millimetre low permeability lining on those retention ponds?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: Sorry, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>(Page 19)</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: ...Could you undertake for us on notice to investigate whether they are using the best technology that exists or whether there is some cost-cutting going on?</p>	18-19 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
140	5.2: SSD	Ludlam	Advice to ERA regarding the approvals needed to progress from exploration to mining	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Is it your understanding—feel free to dispute this if I am wrong—that because this is an exploration shaft, if the company encounters mineralised ore on their way down the tunnel, which is quite extensive, they would not be licensed or approved to mill any mineralised ore that comes out of there?</p> <p>Mr Hughes: I do not believe they would be licensed to process that ore, no.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Me either. Could you just confirm that for us. You sound like you are not quite locked in on that one. You can phone a friend if you want, but I am interested in getting confirmation of what will happen—whether their licence conditions for this exploration activity, as the company has put it, would preclude milling anything that comes out of the tunnel.</p> <p>Dr Dripps: We will have to take that question on notice, Senator.</p>	21 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
141	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	Loss of carryover water	<p>Senator JOYCE: A peak flow in the middle of a flood with a flow path at my front door, in the last big flood, was 320,000 megalitres a day. An average flood is 40,000 megalitres a day. A very minor flow that you cannot even pump on; it is 1,200 megalitres a day. It is just not a</p>	87 (23/5/12)	02/08/12	23/08/12

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				<p>flow at all. The environmental asset is the Mehi wetlands, which would be somewhere between 150 and 300 kilometres away from Copeton Dam... It is going to make no difference. It is superfluous. If it is that little, you did not need it at all. The difference it would make would be completely indistinguishable.</p> <p>Mr Robinson: The water for the Gwydir wetlands gets accounted for near the Gwydir wetlands, not actually at the dam, so the 1,200 gegalitres would have been accounted into the wetlands, effectively.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Have you lost any carryover water?</p> <p>Mr Robinson: Very minor volumes between last year and this year; I can take it on notice, but it was very minor.</p>			
142	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	Impacts of environmental watering in the Murrumbidgee River	<p>Senator JOYCE: The response to question No. 93 from the supplementary estimates last year states, 'We received two complaints regarding the impact of environmental watering in the Murrumbidgee in June last year.' Can we get a copy of those complaints?</p> <p>Mr Robinson: I am not sure we can give you a copy because perhaps there would be privacy issues, but we can certainly take it on notice to see what information we can provide you.</p>	87 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
143	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	2,750 gegalitre target - storage	<p>Senator JOYCE: Of that 2,750, how much do you think will end up being stored? It is all about how you buy it and where you buy it, but how much of your 2,750 would you say can actually be stored? Will it be the whole lot, 2,000 gigs of it or 1,000 gigs of it?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Robinson: I can take it on notice, but it will vary between years and there will be a maximum limit which will be the same maximum limit as applied to the entitlements before they were acquired by the Commonwealth.</p>	88 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
144	6.1: CEWO	Cameron	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder Annual Report - Schematic	<p>CHAIR: Could you advise the committee of the link to that so that we do not send people out looking for it?</p> <p>Mr Robinson: Certainly, we can—</p> <p>CHAIR: Is there a link for that so that we can have a look at it and have it here next time when we are trying to—</p> <p>Mr Robinson: I have in fact got a copy of that with me, if that helps.</p> <p>CHAIR: I am sure you can understand it is pretty hard to conceptualise how the decision making is made if, you know, someone like Senator Joyce, who is knowledgeable in this area, thinks that someday some bureaucrat wakes up and simply makes a decision. I think we need to get that clear.</p> <p>Mr Robinson: We can provide the link to that.</p>	90-91 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
145	6.1: CEWO	Birmingham	CEWH – Water usage	<p>1. In 2010-11 CEWH used just 387 of 778 GL available and reports suggest as at February 2012 had used 403 of potentially 1148GL. On what sites and for what purpose has environmental water allocated this year been used? How is remaining water being used? Is it carried over? For how long can water be carried over?</p>	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Are there limits to how much can be carried over and held in storages? Are there limits for particular storages? How are these impacting the carryover of environmental water? 3. Does the storage of carried over environmental water impact on the storage of carried over irrigation water? If so, how? 4. Will the CEWH consider selling excess water to farmers this year? If not, under what conditions would water be sold? 			
146	6.1: CEWO	Birmingham	CEWH – 2011-12 Environmental water usage in the Lower Lakes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During 2011-12 how much environmental water was used in the Lower Lakes and Coorong? When? What was the purpose of this water use? How were benefits measured? 2. How much water has been used in the Lower Lakes and Coorong to date this year? How much is expected to be used? For what purpose? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
147	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	CEWH – Reduction in funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why has the government decided to reduce funding for the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder by \$13.2 million? How will the Commonwealth make these savings? 2. Are these savings in addition to any efficiency dividends the Water holder has had to meet? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
148	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	CEWH – Appointment of a replacement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the government appointed a replacement for Mr Ian Robinson as the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
149	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	CEWH – 2011-12 allocation of environmental water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will be the government's expected allocation of environmental water for 2011-12 in the Murray-Darling Basin? Please separately identify water managed by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Living Murray Initiative? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
150	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	CEWH – 2011-12 environmental watering plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the government's plans for environmental watering in 2011-12? What volumes have been allocated in specific locations? 2. Will all of the water not used be able to be carried over? If not, how much water will be carried over and how much is expected to be lost? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
151	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	CEWH – Environmental watering complaints	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In response to question 93 from supplementary estimates last October, the department said that it received two complaints regarding concerns about the impact of environmental watering in the Murrumbidgee in June last year. Could we have a copy of those complaints? 2. What action has been taken in response to those complaints? What action has been taken to ensure that future environmental watering does not cause similar flooding events? 3. Has environmental watering been implicated or contributed in any way in causing any blackwater event over the past year? If so, what are the details of this event? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
152	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	CEWH – Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many staff does the Commonwealth Environmental Water holder employ at the moment? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
153	6.1:	Joyce	CEWH – Use of	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From an answer to question 100 from supplementary estimates it is clear that the 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	CEWO		water allocations	government has only used 61 per cent of its water allocations in the first three years of environmental watering. Does the government have a target for how much it should use? 2. Will the government be able to use more water as its allocations rise to the 2750 proposed under the draft basin plan?			
154	6.1: CEWO	Joyce	CEWH – 2011-12 water holdings	1. For the Commonwealth's environmental water holdings, could you please list the amount of water allocated, the carryover water and the amount of water delivered for 2011-12 (year to date)?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
155	6.1: CEWO	McKenzie	CEWH – Proportion of carryover water holdings	1. What proportion of CEWH's water holding has some form of carry-over attached to it? 2. How much water did the CEWH carry-over last year and how much water is expected to be carried over in the coming year?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
156	6.1: CEWO	McKenzie	CEWH – Environmental watering volumes	1. Can you express the environmental watering volume used: a. as percentage of the total water held, including carry over water for the years 2010-2011 and what is expected to be carried over in 2011-2012? b. In each of the Basin States individually as percentage of the total water held, including carry over water for the years 2010-2011 and what is expected to be carried over in 2011-2012?	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
157	6.1: CEWO	McKenzie	CEWH – Banking of entitlements	On the 10 th February 2012 in Mildura MDBA Public Meeting, Tony Burke said, "First of all on carry over I just want to say I am absolutely alive to the concern that during flood years an entitlement simply being banked in water storages which if you then if tried to use it significantly in one water year it would have absolute and immediate impact on your allocations for that water year. I have met only in the last couple days and had another conversation with the <i>Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder</i> about this to try and make sure we put some boundaries around the use and work out we can still be meet the objectives of this statutory role. But not be creating the worst of all worlds when straight after a flood your water allocation takes a hit even though your water storages are full." 1. Explain how? a. If during flood years, the CWEH entitlement is simply banked in water storages and then used significantly in the following year how it would have absolute and immediate impact on irrigators' allocations for that water year. b. Boundaries have been place around the use of CEWH held water to minimise adverse affect to irrigators' allocations.	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
158	6.1: CEWO	McKenzie	CEWH – Third party effects of allocations	1. What modelling has been conducted on the usage of the Commonwealth Water Holding and its third party effects on allocations? If any, could you provide it?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
159	BOM	Macdonald	BOM – Office rents	(Page 17) Senator IAN MACDONALD: Can you tell me what rent you are paying in Melbourne for	17-18 (22/5/12)	12/09/12	20/09/12

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				<p>the head office and for the Victorian office?</p> <p>...</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(Page 18)</p> <p>Ms Middleton: I do not have the figures with me. I can do it on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: I think Townsville is probably run by the RAAF, though, is it not? They would be very modest.</p> <p>Ms Middleton: I do not have Townsville's figures with me.</p> <p>Dr Vertessy: Sorry, Senator. We do not have Townsville's figures. But we will make sure we give them to you.</p> <p>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.</p>			
160	BOM	Macdonald	BOM – Decentralisation	<p>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.</p> <p>...</p> <p>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.</p>	18 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12
161	Corporate: CSD	Cameron	Savings achieved through video conferencing	<p>CHAIR: I am interested in the department's use of video conferencing. Can you tell me the savings you have achieved from video conferencing between areas of the department and with the minister in his office. I would like information on flight and travel costs saved and time savings from avoided travel.</p> <p>Ms Carlos: I will have to take the detail of that question on notice and come back to you, but we do broadly use a fair amount of video conferencing. We have connections through to AAD in Tasmania, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Townsville and our supervising scientist in Darwin. We use these facilities on a weekly basis in terms of running our management meetings. We also use them when we have larger conferences. There is quite a broad use of video conferencing. We also video conference with the minister when he is</p> <p>CHAIR: When you implemented this process did you use it as a savings measure?</p>	44 (22/5/12)	08/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				Ms Carlos: No. I was not with the department when they implemented it, but we can certainly do some estimates of what travel has been avoided by the various line areas.			
162	Corporate: CSD	Cameron/ Birmingham	Caring for our Country Grants	<p>(Page 9) CHAIR: Were there any provisions under the previous Howard government in relation to grants in minister's electorates? Mr Thompson: Not that I recall, Senator, but that is a personal recollection. I could not speak definitively on that. ... (Page 10) CHAIR: So they are new guidelines. So I just assume then that there were none. Can you take it on notice and advise me of any guidelines, any processes, that were in place to provide checks and balances on these issues under the previous government? Dr Grimes: Yes. Senator BIRMINGHAM: Noting that you do not quite recall the specific breaches here, but, yes, they were a couple of Caring for our Country grants and a grant under the Landcare Facilitators initiative—all of them to the Sydney Metro CMA, it appears. Could you just have a check through and see whether there has been any update to the procedures since the ANAO report was released. And if there were any variations, can you advise us of any changes to those procedures that may have occurred from the departmental perspective to ensure that ministers don't inadvertently breach the guidelines again, please? Dr Grimes: We can see what further information we can provide you with.</p>	9-10 (22/5/12)	12/09/12	20/09/12
163	Corporate: CSD	Birmingham	DSEWPaC - Conferences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the total expenditure on conferences both: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. in-house, that is, held within the department; and b. external, held by the department on a month-by-month basis since July 2010? 2. For conferences fully funded by the Department and costing in excess of \$30,000: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. where was the venue; b. what was the reason for each conference; c. how many participants registered; d. were consultancy fees paid for the organisation of each conference; e. to whom were the consultancy fees paid; and f. what was the cost of each consultancy. 3. For conferences part-sponsored or part-funded by the Department and costing the Commonwealth in excess of \$30,000: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. what was the cost to the Department; b. what was the proportion of Commonwealth funding as against the total cost of the conference; c. what was the rationale for the sponsorship or part-funding; d. what was the venue; 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. how many participants registered; f. did the Commonwealth contribute to any consultant organising the conference; if so, who was the consultant; and g. how much was the Commonwealth's contribution? 			
164	Corporate: CSD	Birmingham	DSEWPaC - Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the staffing numbers for each division within the Department currently and predicted for the next 12 months? 2. Have all positions advertised in the Department been filled in the past twelve months? 3. Are any staff reductions including positions not filled? 4. How many agencies/authorities now report to the Department? 5. What are the staffing numbers currently and projected for 12 months time for each of those agencies/authorities? 6. How many staff are transferring (have transferred and/or will transfer) from the Department to these agencies/authorities? 7. What is the size of the communications department in the Department? What budget does it have? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
165	Corporate: CSD	Birmingham	DSEWPaC – Overseas travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Department staff travelled overseas? 2. Please detail the total number of trips for each departmental position and their total travel expenses. 3. How many staff travelled first class? 4. How many staff travelled business class? 5. How many future overseas trips is the Department currently planning? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
166	Corporate: CSD	Birmingham	DSEWPaC – Costs of overseas travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost of overseas travel for the Department? Please include a list of all international travel itemised by trip, detailing the number of Departmental staff involved and the cost of each trip including the total amounts spent on accommodation and meals, cities or other destinations visited, the purpose of the travel and any specific outcomes achieved. 2. What was the total amount spent by the Department on overseas accommodation and meals? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
167	Corporate: CSD	Birmingham	DSEWPaC – Interstate travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many staff travelled interstate? 2. What was the total accommodation and meals bill for staff travelling interstate over the past year? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
168	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide - Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 4. Please list the SES positions have you in your department/agency in the years this 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

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				financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.			
169	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Graduate staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will there be any training after the 2012 Calendar year for 2012 Graduates? If yes, please details costs and what the training is. What was the cost for recruiting 2012 Graduates? Please itemise and detail costs. 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
170	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Hospitality and entertainment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
171	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide - Consultancies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
172	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Social media protocols	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 issue. If no, please explain why not. 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
173	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide - Contractors	<p>For this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> <p>2. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> <p>3. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> <p>4. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> <p>5. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> <p>6. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> <p>7. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> <p>8. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> <p>9. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>10. What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p>			
174	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Discretionary grants	<p>1. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.</p> <p>2. Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?</p>	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
175	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Government payment of accounts	<p>1. For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?</p> <p>a. 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)</p>	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?</p> <p>c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?</p>			
176	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Stationary costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date? What is the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date? What was the department/agency's stationery costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
177	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Media subscriptions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels. What is the cost for this financial year to date? Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers. What is the cost for this financial year to date? Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines. What is the cost for this financial year to date? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
178	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Education expenses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the department/agency's guidelines on study? Please provide details. 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 department/agency. 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
179	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Executive coaching and leadership training	<p>In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Total spending on these services The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 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) The names of all service providers engaged. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide: 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 5. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The total amount spent on the service b. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) 6. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The location used b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location 			
180	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Paid Parental Leave	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and 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? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments. 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
181	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Training for Portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for. 2. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for. 3. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification. 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
182	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Corporate cars	<p>Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many cars are owned by each department and agency in your portfolio? 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? 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
183	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Taxi costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency. What are the reasons for taxi costs? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
184	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Corporate credit cards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused? How is corporate credit card use monitored? What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered? Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
185	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Provision of electronic equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs? For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? What were the running costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11? 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 department/agency 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? Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012): Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided. 	Written	07/02/13	28/02/13
186	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Electricity purchasing agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an update of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement. Provide details of when this was entered into and the length of the agreement. What were the department/agency electricity costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11? What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
187	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Shredders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has the department/agencies 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. 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
188	Corporate: CSD	McKenzie	SEWPaC – Impact of the carbon tax on operating costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has the department modelled the impact of the carbon tax on their running costs? If so, what was the outcome? If not, why, not? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
189	Corporate: CSD	McKenzie	SEWPaC – Electricity costs	1. How much electricity does the department use? How much does the department spend on electricity?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
190	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Printing	1. Does the department/agency print any hard copies of reports/statements/papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost.	Written	12/09/12 + 1 att't	20/09/12
191	Corporate: CSD	Di Natale	DSEWPaC – Access and Equity Strategy	1. How does your Department ensure that the Government's Access and Equity Strategy is implemented in its entirety and in relation to all Departmental activities? How does your Department 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 that the Department 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 your Department doing to ensure it has a culturally competent workforce?	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
192	Corporate: PCD	Wright	Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations – 2012-13 funding allocation	1. What amount has been allocated for this grant program in 2012-13 and then across the forward estimates?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
193	Corporate: PCD	Wright	Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations – Basis for funding	1. Since the GVESH program began back in 2007, the proportion of funding allocated to heritage organisations as compared to environment and sustainability organisations has been reduced from 20.9% down to 12.1%. The actual amount of funding allocated to heritage organisations has also fallen, from roughly \$205,000 in 2010-11 to \$160,000 in 2011-12. Is greater priority being given to funding for environment organisations as compared to funding for heritage organisations? 2. Funding under the GVESH program used to be provided on a triennial basis. As of last year, funding is now being provided on an annual basis. The advice we are receiving from stakeholders is that this is very disruptive to forward planning, particularly when some organisations are yet to receive their funding for the 2011-12 financial year. What is the reason for moving from triennial to annual grants & also for the delay in payments?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
194	Corporate: PCD	Birmingham	DSEWPaC – Advertising	1. Please detail all advertising expenditure in financial year 2011-12 to date by campaign, including the campaign's purpose, total cost (including campaign research and design) and media (i.e. print, radio, TV etc) involved. In each case, if the campaign was part of a broader strategy, what other communications activities were undertaken and at what cost? Please provide a similar breakdown on budgeted future spending.	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				2. Please detail all advertising related contracts entered into, specifically their costs, duration and key deliverables under each contract.			
195	Corporate: PCD	Birmingham	DSEWPaC – Market research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please detail all market research expenditure in financial year 2011-12 and identify the campaign(s) to which the expenditure relates. Please provide a similar breakdown on budgeted future spending. 2. Please detail all market research related contracts entered into, specifically their costs, duration and key deliverables under each contract. 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
196	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Advertising	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake? 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
197	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Board appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. 2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio? 3. Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date. 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
198	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Freedom of Information requests	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests? 2. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date? 3. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why? 4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
199	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Community Cabinet meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date? 2. How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended? List date and location. 3. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Ministerial Staff attend? List date and location. 4. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location. 5. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
200	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide - Reviews	<p>For this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Reviews are being undertaken? 2. What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded 3. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government? 4. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed? 5. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews? 6. What reviews are planned? 7. When will each of these reviews be concluded? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
201	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – 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 for this financial year to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which agency or agencies provided these services? b. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2012-13? 2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which agency or agencies provided these services? b. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2012-13? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
202	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Commissioned reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members. 2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level? 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?			
203	Corporate: CSD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Travel costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 3. 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. 4. 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. 5. 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. 	Written	12/09/12 + 4 att'ts	20/09/12
204	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Legal costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs. 2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency 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 each portfolio department and agency 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 portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs. 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
205	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Media training	<p>In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The name and nature of the service purchased b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based 5. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 6. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The total amount spent on the service b. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) 7. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The location used b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location 			
206	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Provision of information to the Australian Greens	<p>Does the department/agency provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Australian Greens? If yes, please provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
207	Corporate: PCD	Fisher	Portfolio Wide – Provision of information to the Independents	<p>Does the department/agency provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Independents? If yes, please provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
208	Corporate: PCD	Joyce	2010-11 Suspected fraud cases	1. Can you provide details of the three suspected fraud cases referred to the Australian Federal Police in 2010-11? Have any charges been laid as a result of these referrals? If so, what are the details of these charges?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
209	GBRMPA	Waters	Provision of information to the UNESCO monitoring mission	<p>Senator WATERS: ... I want to move now to the UNESCO investigation... Did you provide a written briefing to UNESCO when they were on their monitoring mission?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: We certainly provided oral briefings.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Has that been released anywhere?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: I do not think it was recorded.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: The notes of such? Are we able to request that you table a copy of any notes that were made of that meeting?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: The material is drawn from publicly available documents. I can check.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: In that case, if you could table the notes, that would be great.</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: I could table the reference to the documents, perhaps.</p>	28 (22/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
210	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Spend on economic modelling	<p>Senator JOYCE: How much have you spent on modelling so far?</p> <p>Dr Dickson: On which particular modelling?</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: On all your modelling. How much has the MDBA spent on economic modelling so far?</p> <p>Dr Dickson: I might have to take that on notice. When you say ‘so far’, from what point? From ever?</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Since the process of trying to develop a plan for the Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>Mr Webster: I do not have that figure.</p> <p>Dr Dickson: We will provide it to you on notice.</p>	55 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
211	MDBA	Joyce	Qualifications of Dr Glyn Wittwer	<p>Senator JOYCE: Who was the main person you were speaking to from Monash University?</p> <p>Mr Webster: Dr Glyn Wittwer.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Was he a ‘climatition’, a statistician or an econometrician?</p> <p>Mr Webster: You could call him an econometrician. He was an economic modeller.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: His history has always been in academia? He is a very competent person with a long-term history in academia?</p> <p>Senator Conroy: We would have to take that on notice. We can get you his CV if you like.</p>	56 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
212	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – legal advice from the Office of International Law	<p>(Page 65)</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Did the MDBA receive legal advice from the Office of International Law?</p> <p>Mr James: We received advice from the Office of International Law prior to last year’s proposed basin plan being put out. We are getting advice from the Attorney-General’s Department in relation to the plan that we are bringing out next week, but we have not received that yet.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: How many pages of legal advice was there?</p> <p>Mr James: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p>	65 & 77 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>(Page 77)</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Where did the instruction come to get that advice?</p> <p>Mr James: Sorry, to get the advice from—</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Who?</p> <p>Mr James: It was initiated within the authority.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Who was the head of the authority at that point in time?</p> <p>Mr James: Late last year; Dr Dickson would have been the chief executive.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Did you seek that advice, Dr Dickson?</p> <p>Dr Dickson: I do not think I signed the letter. It was just a standard requirement that we would have made, so it would have come from some part of the authority.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: From your legal department?</p> <p>Dr Dickson: We would have to give you who it came from, who actually signed the letter requesting it, but I can get that on notice for you.</p>			
213	MDBA	Xenophon	Calculation of Baseline Diversion Limits	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Could I put this to Dr Dickson at the MDBA. In a recent committee hearing in Mildura I raised concerns in relation to the way baseline diversion limits have been calculated. These concerns have been flagged to me by various groups in the Riverland and irrigators including Central Irrigation Trust. It is their understanding that when a baseline cap was introduced in 1995 the levels in New South Wales and Victoria were based on the level of extraction due to a lack of metering. In contrast, with South Australian meters, a decision was made to cap usage at 90 per cent of entitlements, and at that time actual usage was about 82 per cent of entitlements. However, it has been put to me that in setting the baseline diversion limits it appears the authority has shifted the starting point to actual use as opposed to entitlements. Can the authority comment whether that concern is correct or not?</p> <p>Dr Dickson: I might ask Dr McLeod to answer that question.</p> <p>Dr McLeod: Both the cap and the baseline diversion limits are based on levels of use. There are different measures. Part of your question went to the way that use was being quantified, whether through meters or through estimation. Nonetheless, the cap in 1995 in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia was about trying to estimate the 1993-94 levels of development being used, and likewise we are doing the same with baseline diversion limits. We are trying to look at the level of use that the current arrangements provide for. In the case of South Australia, the baseline diversion limit reflects the settlement of a cap that allowed for increases in activation of the entitlement in South Australia from around 80 per cent to 90 per cent. That was a decision made at the time of the cap, which we have continued through the process of estimating the baseline diversion limit in South Australia.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Are you saying those concerns are not valid?</p> <p>Dr McLeod: There appears to be misunderstanding in relation to that. We are happy to take on notice further advice in relation to that.</p>	71 (23/5/12)	12/09/12	20/09/12
214	MDBA	Heffernan	Breakdown of	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: ...Can you provide to the committee the model and the make-up of</p>	79	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			2,750 gigalitre target by catchment	the model for each valley with whatever—what does the 2,750 gigs consist of, how much of it is supplementary in your plan, how much is terminal, how much is high and how much is low? Ms Swirepik: Yes, that information— Senator Conroy: We will take it on notice and give you as much of that information as we can.	(23/5/12)		
215	MDBA	Heffernan	MDBA – Groundwater arrangements	Senator HEFFERNAN: ...How we are going to avoid that in the new Murray-Darling Basin Plan? I think it is a fair dinkum question. The new Murray-Darling Basin plan says we are going to mine aquifers. You would agree with that, would you not? Dr Dickson: No, I would not agree with that. Senator HEFFERNAN: But the Wimmera and the Mallee, it says, will be mined. ... Dr Dickson: What I might suggest is that we can provide you a question on notice after we have finalised the new revised plan on the groundwater arrangements in that plan.	81 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
216	MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA – Assessment of Murray mouth openness	Senator BIRMINGHAM: That test of the mouth being open, what exactly does that mean? Is that the mouth being open without dredging? Is it the mouth being open 90 years in 100 years for the full 12-month period in each of those 90 years? What does that figure that the minister put mean? ... Ms Swirepik: I am happy to put some on notice because there are a whole lot of different ways to assess mouth openness.	82 (23/5/12)	25/07/12	23/08/12
217	MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA – Water regulated flows	1. I refer to the draft Basin Plans requirement that for state developed water resource plans that the determination of actual take must be done using the best available method. How many state developed water resource plans do not currently use this method? Which ones? 2. Will the use of the best available method require and guarantee effective metering for all extractions? How is this enforced? What are the penalties for states and/or water users for non-compliance?	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
218	MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA – Merging the CEWH with MDBA	1. Has the MDBA been aware of or been involved in plans or discussions regarding merging the CEWH and MDBA?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
219	MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA – Living Murray Initiative	1. Does the MDBA retain responsibility for water acquired under the Living Murray initiative?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
220	MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA – Environmental works and measures projects	1. What is the process for assessing environmental works and measures projects such as those identified in the National Partnership Agreement to offset the SDLs? What are the criteria used to assess such projects?	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
221	MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA – Carp	1. What progress has been made on eradication of the huge numbers of Carp presently in the	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			eradication	<p>system?</p> <p>2. Please detail progress on the roll out of the carp traps at weirs.</p> <p>3. I refer to QoN 119 from February's estimates. In light of the explosion of carp numbers in 2010-11 how do you explain the dramatic fall in the number of carp removed in 2011 compared to 2010?</p>			
222	MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA – Potential fraud investigation	1. Has the potential fraud investigation referred to in Answer 173 been resolved? Was the potential fraud by a water user or staff member?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
223	MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA – Communication in setting SDLs	1. Please detail the dates and manner of all communication between the Minister and MDBA regarding the setting of groundwater SDLs between the release of the proposed Basin Plan for public consultation and the release of the latest version to the Ministerial Council. Please provide copies of all such written communication.	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
224	MDBA	Heffernan	MDBA – Management of water quality	<p>In light of the pending introduction of the Globally Binding Mercury Instrument by the UNEP the revised MDB draft does not mention the water quality issues relating to mercury and arsenic pollution for the Murray River Ramsar zones and the Murray Darling Basin in general. 45.64% of New South Wales and 40.38% of Victoria have been subject to historical gold mining activity it is disappointing that this globally critical toxic metal pollution issue has not even been mentioned in the revised MDB plan. This lack of recognition will have a significant impact on all of the Murray Darling Basin farming communities once the globally binding mercury instrument comes into force.</p> <p>The revised draft does not mention sedimentation issues resulting from logging activities in great dividing range in both Victoria and NSW. The bulk of the mercury and often times arsenic pollution that flows into the Murray River RAMSAR Zones comes from historical gold mining areas in Victoria and in particular the Upper Goulburn river historical gold mining area and the Ovens Valley historical gold mining areas:</p> <p>1. Documents identifying this toxic metal pollution issue have been available from VicEPA since the early to mid 1980's. Is the Murray Darling Basin Authority aware of this issue, if yes, what policies/programmes are in place to address this issue?</p> <p>2. Can you provide an estimation of costs for this major toxic metal pollution issue to be addressed in a further revision of the Murray Darling Basin plan and the timetable for this work to take place.</p>	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
225	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Modelled annual inflows	1. Can you please provide the Committee the modelled annual inflows into the Murray-Darling for every year since 1895?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
226	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Advisory Committee on Social, Economic and Environmental Sciences	<p>1. Why is the MDBA only establishing the Advisory Committee on Social, Economic and Environmental Sciences after the basin plan has been in effect finalised?</p> <p>2. What will this advisory committee do?</p> <p>3. Has the MDBA appointed members to this committee? If so who are they?</p> <p>4. How much will members of this committee be paid?</p> <p>5. I refer you to a decision of the MDBA at a meeting on 1 March 2011 not to establish a</p>	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				Social and Economics references committee despite previously approaching a number of experts to join such a committee. Why is it necessary to create such a committee now when it wasn't in March last year?			
227	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Contribution of environmental works and measures to SDLs	1. How can the benefits of environmental works and measures contribute towards the 2750 GL SDL under the current draft basin plan?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
228	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Water savings	1. Is there any ability under the current draft basin plan to account for the water savings that might arise from the draft basin plan?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
229	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Living Murray Initiative	I refer you to your answer to question no. 171 from additional estimates in February on the Living Murray Initiative, where you state that: “Further work is required to determine how they might be used in conjunction with the additional water available to the environment under the Basin Plan, and what contribution they might make towards achieving the environmental outcomes of the Basin Plan.” 1. Has the MDBA progressed this work and how might the Living Murray Initiative projects contribute towards achieving environmental outcomes?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
230	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Long-term watering plans	I refer you to your answer to question no. 160 from additional estimates in February where you stated that: “It is possible that new information or efficiencies not currently identified could result in state LTPs identifying that less environmental water is required in their region. If so, the Authority would take this into consideration in the Sustainable diversion Limit review (2015) and environmental watering plan review (2017).” 1. Would this change require changes to the legislative instrument which would need to go through Parliament again?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
231	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Legal advice	1. Has the MDBA received specific legal advice on how whether the draft basin plan complies with the Water Act? If so, who undertook this advice, when was it provided and how many pages of advice did it amount to?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
232	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Hume Dam and Lake Mulwala	1. Can you please provide an update on negotiations to purchase easements between Hume Dam and Lake Mulwala? When does the expect these negotiations to conclude? 2. Can I confirm that the current draft basin plan only calls for maximum flows of 25,000 ML per day between Hume Dam and Lake Mulwala?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
233	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Easements for environmental watering purposes	1. Can the MDBA please provide a list of all of the areas where they are currently seeking or negotiating to purchase additional easements for environmental watering purposes? How much land is the MDBA seeking access to?	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
234	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA –	1. How much has the MDBA spent on its Indigenous Employment Strategy? Have you	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Indigenous Employment Strategy	employed any Indigenous people yet?			
235	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Potential fraud investigation	1. In your 2010-11 annual report you refer to one “potential fraud” being under investigation. Can you provide details on what this investigation covers and has the investigation concluded? What has been the outcome of the investigations?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
236	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Compliance audits	On p. 170 of the 2010-11 annual report you say that: “The compliance audits found a strong and positive attitude to internal control, but identified actions needed to ensure improved compliance.” 1. What were the actions identified and how you are going in implementing them?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
237	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Basin Plan spend	1. How much has the Authority spent on the Basin plan to date? 2. How much does the Authority expect to spend on the Basin plan over the next financial year?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
238	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Staff working on the Basin Plan	1. How many staff does the Authority have working on the Basin plan?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
239	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Briefings provided to the Minister and Prime Minister	1. Could you please provide the Committee with a list of the briefings the MDBA has given to the Minister for Water or his staff, and the Prime Minister, or her staff, since 18 October 2011?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
240	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Records of decisions made	1. Could the Authority please provide this Committee with all the decisions it has made since 30 January 2012 in accordance with Section 198 of the Water Act which requires the Authority to keep records of all of its decisions?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
241	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Meeting minutes	1. Could you please provide the minutes to any of the meetings the Authority has held since 2 December 2011?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
242	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan	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.	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
243	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Salinity Audit and Basin Salinity Management Strategy	I refer you to Question no. 107 from additional estimates in February. In the answer to that question the MDBA states that: <i>“These salt load export estimates do not include the future increase in salt mobilisation estimated by the Salinity Audit (Murray-Darling Basin Commission, 1999), nor the uptake of Basin Salinity Management Strategy salinity credits. When these are included it is expected that the recovery of 2,750 GL proposed in the Basin Plan will be sufficient to meet the salinity export target of 2 million tonnes of salt per year from the basin.”</i> 1. How much salt load export will occur on an annual basis from the Salinity Audit and the	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				Basin Salinity Management Strategy?			
244	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Salinity target	I refer you to Question no. 107 from additional estimates in February. In the answer to that question the MDBA states that: “Salinity was modelled under the post Basin Plan flow regimes including at Milang. This analysis indicates that under Basin Plan conditions a salinity target of 600mg/L at Milang would be achieved 99 per cent of the time.” 1. How often would the target of 600mg/L be met under the 2,400 GL modelling?	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
245	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – South Eastern Australian Climate Initiative	1. Is Phase 2 of the South Eastern Australian Climate Initiative still on track to be completed by the end of June?	Written	08/08/12	23/08/12
246	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Distribution of the Sustainable Rivers Audit report	1. Has the MDBA distributed the Sustainable Rivers Audit report to the Natural Resource Management Committee, the Basin Officials Committee or any other committees? Is the Sustainable Rivers Audit report still on track to be submitted to a Ministerial Council meeting in June?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
247	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Allocation under the Living Murray Initiative	1. How much of the 402 GL allocated under the Living Murray Initiative is expected to be used in 2011-12? Has any water allocated not been able to be used or carried over under the Living Murray Initiative for 2010-11 and 2011-12? If so how much water has not been used or carried over?	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
248	MDBA	Joyce	MDBA – Cap models for SA and ACT	1. When does the MDBA expect that cap models for South Australia and the ACT might be concluded? Will it be before the finalisation of the Basin Plan?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
249	MDBA	Rhiannon	MDBA – Groundwater SDLs	1. Did you receive correspondence from the NSW Government asking you to increase groundwater SDLs in order to supply water to the mining industry? 2. Did you increase the groundwater SDLs proposals from those in the Guide in keeping with their request? 3. Did you receive correspondence from any other parties asking for more groundwater for the mining industry? 4. As relates to any mining related decisions in NSW, what publicly available, peer reviewed science do you have to rule out connectivity between the groundwater units from which you propose to increase SDLs and surface water in the MDB?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
250	MDBA	Rhiannon	MDBA – Lachlan alluvium	1. For alluvial aquifers that are known to be highly connected to surface water for which you propose increases in SDLs, such as the Lachlan Alluviums, what modelling have you done of the impact of increased groundwater extraction on surface water? 2. For the Lachlan Alluvium, a system that is widely recognised as being over-used, can you explain why you have changed the proposed SDL from a reduction of 57GL in the Guide to the Plan to an increase of 26GL in the draft Plan?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
251	MDBA	Rhiannon	MDBA – Barwon-	1. Can you explain why the draft Basin Plan offers only a 10.4% cut to diversions in the	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Darling River System	<p>Barwon-Darling system, despite the fact that there has been a 78-fold increase in diversions in the last 50 years and that average outflows to the Murray are now less than half the volume under natural conditions?</p> <p>2. Given that there are far fewer system constraints in the northern system and that it is a major source of inflows to the Lower Murray and South Australia, why is the environmental flow target for the Barwon-Darling so incredibly weak?</p> <p>3. Do you acknowledge that the Barwon-Darling will become even more important in a changing climate with flows from the southern system predicted to reduce far more severely than the northern system?</p> <p>4. Why then does the draft Basin Plan fail the northern system so markedly?</p>			
252	MDBA	Xenophon	MDBA – Exclusion of the ACT	1. Why has the ACT been excluded from any cuts in the Proposed Basin Plan, when it wasn't excluded in the Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan?	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
253	MDBA	Hanson-Young	MDBA – Advisory Committee on Social, Economic and Environmental Sciences	<p>Regarding the Advisory Committee on Social, Economic and Environmental Sciences:</p> <p>1. What are the terms of reference for this panel?</p> <p>2. How is it planned that it will operate?</p> <p>3. What are its powers?</p> <p>4. How will the Advisory Committee differ from the testing committee?</p>	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
254	MDBA	Hanson-Young	MDBA – Meetings of the testing committee	1. How many times has the testing committee met (which involved Jeff Angel, Jennifer Westacott, Peter Cosier and others) since April 2011?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
255	MDBA	Hanson-Young	MDBA – Water quality monitoring in the Lower Lakes and Coorong	<p>1. Can the MDBA please outline how many water quality monitoring sites are currently installed in the lower lakes and Coorong, and also how many monitoring indicators there were in those places every year for the past decade? Does the Department intend to fund the installation of further monitoring sites in order to ensure water quality and salinity targets can be met?</p> <p>2. Has the MDBA had any discussions or negotiations with local government or state government in regard to improving the barrages?</p>	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
256	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Flooding resulting from enacting environmental watering plans	1. Who is ultimately liable for damages cause by flooding to private property as a result of an error in enacting environmental watering plans?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
257	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Commonwealth Environmental Water trades	1. CEW have release a paper on trade, “Commonwealth Environmental Water – Trading Arrangements, Discussion Paper.” Page 10-11 of that paper states the probability of trade of the CEW being traded under a number of climate scenarios which range from very dry to very wet. The paper says the most likely time allocations would be traded is at the start of a dry period provided there is sufficient water is available to meet minimum	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>environmental requirements for the next few years. How much water would be required to be in store to meet minimum environmental requirements for the next few years after the start of a dry period? Can you describe how this would be determined?</p> <p>2. Can you describe how the decision would be made to sell Commonwealth Environmental water during a dry period?</p>			
258	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Bridging the Gap Program	1. The draft Basin Plan does not explicitly lock in the Commonwealth’s commitment to ‘Bridge the Gap’ program. Will the Basin States be left to deal with the SDLs on their own and risk non-compliance to the plan if ‘Bridging the Gap’ program fails?	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
259	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Water quality and salinity targets	1. Could you explicitly state whether the water quality and salinity targets as presented in Chapter 8 of the Draft Basin Plan are ‘mandatory’ or ‘aspirational’?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
260	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Costs and impacts of the draft Murray-Darling Basin Plan	<p>1. The MDBA has not prepared its regulation impact statement on the costs and impacts of the draft Plan. When will its RIS be completed?</p> <p>2. With the introduction of the <i>proposed Basin Plan</i> it is expected that the State Governments will incur increased costs through implementation of the Basin Plan and more onerous regulatory and management frameworks. Will the Government recommit to the 2008 undertaking for there to be no-net costs as a consequence of reforms?</p>	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
261	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Environmental works and measures – Victorian Government proposals	1. The proposed 2,750GL of water to be taken out of irrigation communities will have significant economic impacts on these communities, particularly smaller, more irrigation dependant farming communities. How is the MDBA incorporating the proposals put forward by the Victorian Government to undertake environmental works and measures to use water more efficiently, which would require less water and reduce the economic impact on communities?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
262	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Benefits of opening the Murray mouth	1. The 400 GL difference in reductions from 2,800 GL to 2,400 GL per year results in only a 3% decrease in the time the Murray Mouth is open. The reductions of this volume could produce significant economic benefits for communities and yet produce little difference to the period the Murray mouth is open. Can you explain and quantify the environmental benefit in keeping the Murray Mouth open for a further 3% of the time using 400 GL of water?	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
263	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Downstream shared reductions	1. Will the downstream shared reductions of 971GL in the Southern Basin be allocated on a pro-rata basis to each State and each catchment? If this is unknown, when will the decision be made? Can you explain the criteria that the MDBA will use to make this decision?	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
264	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Effect of the 2010-2012 wet period in the Murray-Darling	<p>1. Could you explain what effect the 2010-2012 wet period in the Murray-Darling Basin has had on salinity levels in;</p> <p>a. The Southern Coorong</p> <p>b. Lake Alexandria</p>	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Date or Written	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Basin on salinity	c. Lake Albert			
265	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Ewe Island barrage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could you list the number of major seawater intrusions that have occurred at Ewe Island Barrage in the period Jan 2011 to date and quantifying the peak salinity? 2. Also in regard to the Ewe Island Barrages seawater intrusions, is there telemetry available that shows how far salt water penetrated into Lake Alexandria at this time? If telemetry is available could you provide it? Were any of these seawater intrusions associated with higher than average outflows (i.e. flood water)? 	Written	25/07/12	23/08/12
266	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Murray-Darling Basin Plan's target salinity levels for the Lower Lakes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadly speaking, if the Basin Plan's target salinity levels for the lower lakes is significantly exceeded and the MDBA does not hold sufficient reserves of Commonwealth Environmental water to provide dilution flows; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List all others sources of water, if any, that are available to the MDBA for dilution flows. b. Explain what river operational changes that could be invoked to help alleviate the problem. 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12
267	MDBA	McKenzie	MDBA – Development of regional sustainability plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In considering the development of the MDBP and its impact on communities, have you drawn upon the expertise available elsewhere in SEWPAC in relation to the development of regional sustainability plans? 	Written	02/08/12	23/08/12
268	NWC	Joyce	Budget Measures – Raising National Standards Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I note that the government has ceased funding to the Raising National Water Standards program saving \$20.9 million in funding. What projects or research will not occur because of this reduction in funding? 	Written	12/09/12	20/09/12