

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

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, October 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	143
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Media Subscriptions – Pay TV		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Does ORER subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator does not subscribe to pay TV.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	144
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Media Subscriptions – Newspapers		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Does ORER subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) subscribes to two newspapers: *The Australian* (\$1.50 per issue) and *The Australian Financial Review* (\$3.00 per issue). ORER subscribes to these newspapers to keep the Executive well informed of political, financial and climate change issues.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	145
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Media Subscriptions – Magazines		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Does ORER subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator does not subscribe to magazines.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	146
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Media Monitoring		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etc, provided to ORER in the 2009-10 financial year?
2. Which agency or agencies provided these services?

Answer:

1. The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator did not use any media monitoring services in the 2009-10 financial year.
2. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	147
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – Hawker Britton		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has ORER ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing Hawker Britton.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	148
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – Shannon’s Way		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the ORER ever employed Shannon’s Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon’s Way? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing Shannon’s Way.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	149
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – John Utting & UMR Research Group		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the ORER ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	150
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – McCann-Erickson		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the ORER ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing McCann-Erickson.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	151
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – Cutting Edge		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the ORER ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing Cutting Edge.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	152
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – Ikon Communications		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the ORER ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing Ikon Communications.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	153
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – CMAX Communications		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the ORER ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing CMAX Communications.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	154
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – Boston Consulting Group		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has ORER ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing Boston Consulting Group.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	155
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Contractors – McKinsey & Company		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has ORER ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has not employed and is not considering employing McKinsey & Company.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	156
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Advertising and Marketing		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. How much has ORER spent on advertising and marketing since Budget Estimates?
2. Why?

Answer:

1. There has been no expenditure on advertising and marketing since Budget Estimates.
2. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	157
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Advertising and Marketing		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What communication programs has ORER undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken?
2. For each program, what is the total spend?

Answer:

1. Since Additional Estimates, the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has undertaken one communication program. This was in regards to changes to be made to the Renewable Energy Target scheme which will split the scheme on the 1 January 2011 into the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target and the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme to provide greater certainty for households, large-scale renewable energy projects and installers of small-scale renewable energy systems like solar panels and solar water heaters. Further activities in relation to this communication program are being planned.
2. The total spend on this communications program since Additional Estimates is \$86,000.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	158
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Reviews		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in ORER or affecting ORER since Budget Estimates 2010?
2. Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since Budget Estimates 2010 including:
 - a) when those reviews were provided to Government
 - b) estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and
 - c) if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.
3. How many reviews are ongoing?
4. How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?
5. What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?
6. Will any of these reviews cease due to the 2010 Election?

Answer:

1. The total number of reviews completed, ongoing or affecting the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) since Budget Estimates 2010 is nil.
2. Not applicable.
3. No reviews are ongoing for ORER.
4. No reviews have been completed since Additional Estimates.
5. Under section 162 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Act 2010* the Minister must cause an independent review of the operation of this Act and the scheme constituted by this Act as soon as practicable under 30 June 2012 and every two years after that.
6. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	159
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Government Payments of Accounts		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Has ORER paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
2. 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?
3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined.

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 160
Program: Corporate
Division/Agency: ORER
Topic: Staffing levels
Hansard Page ECA: Written

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What is the total expenditure for staffing for ORER? What is the SES and non-SES breakdown?
2. What has been the general staffing trend in ORER since the 2007 election (for example SES numbers and recruitment has increased by X per cent because of Y).
3. If ORER has been identified in the 2010 election as delivering efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, savings commitments included reducing program funding, rationalising grants etc how will these impact the department and staffing).

Answer:

1. The total expenditure for staffing for the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) as at 30 June 2010 is \$2,327,955. The Principal Executive Office (PEO) component is \$197,509 and the non-SES is \$2,130,446.

2.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
PEO	1	1	1
Non-SES	14	22	28
Total	15	23	29

Staffing numbers have increased by 193 per cent due to the increase in the Renewable Energy Certificate Registry and associated legislative changes.

3. ORER has not been identified in the 2010 election as delivering efficiencies (savings).

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	161
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Consultancies		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senators Abetz/Birmingham asked:

1. Is ORER up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website?
2. Are the figures available on that site correct?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.