

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

Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: Business
Improvement Division

Question No: 102

Broad Topic: Discretionary Grants

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
2. Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answers

1. The department publishes the details of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants, that have come into effect since the Budget Estimates in May 2010 on the department's website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/grants/index.html>. The information available for each grant includes details of grant recipients and the purpose and location of the grant.
2. From January 2009, the department has published on its website, information on individual grants in compliance with the interim reporting requirements set out in the Finance Minister's Instructions of 16 January 2009.

From 1 July 2009, the department has published on its website, information on individual grants in compliance with the reporting requirements under the *Commonwealth Grant Guidelines 2009*.

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: BID **Question No:** 103

Broad Topic: Consultancies – past financial year

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many consultants has the Department engaged in the past financial year?
2. What is the total value of the consultancies the Department has engaged in over the past financial year?
3. In each case, please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).
4. Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded?
5. How many consultants does the Department anticipate it will require in the future and what is the total amount it has allocated for this?
6. Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contacts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?
7. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar and/or financial 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, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

1. During 2009-2010 the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts entered into a total of 168 new consultancy contracts.
2. The total value of consultancy contracts with a value of \$10,000 or more entered into in 2009-2010 was \$30.526m.
3. As part of mandatory reporting requirements, a complete list and detailed information (including the information requested) regarding consultancy contracts entered into in 2009-2010 with a value of \$10,000 or more is published in the Annual Report 2009-2010 and on AusTender.

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4. The total value of consultancy contracts entered into in the past financial year is outlined in part 2 above. The Department has published figures on total spending and individual contract values as part of the Annual Report 2009-2010 and on the AusTender website.
5. The Department's consultancy requirements often change due to departmental planning and changing requirements and environments. Accordingly the department does not maintain a specific forward budget for consultancies, nor does it maintain forward projections of anticipated consultancies.
6. The Department is up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website. The Department is not aware of any unaddressed errors in the published figures.
7. The Department's consultancy requirements often change in accordance with departmental planning and changing requirements and environments.

As at 15 October 2010, the Department planned to conduct procurement exercises for 43 consultancy requirements for the remainder of the financial year 2010-2011.

The table below identifies the planned consultancy contracts with the information requested, where available. The information provided is based on planning as at 15 October. As these consultancy requirements are in the planning stages, the Department is, for the majority, unable to provide information on the duration of the contract and the name of the supplier. In one instance the Department is able to provide the name of the proposed supplier and this is included in the table.

Parameters for the estimated cost of each consultancy have been provided based on planning as at 15 October and initial estimates of the value of the services. The Department cannot provide more detail in this regard until the procurement processes are finalised.

The Department has identified the proposed method of procurement for each planned consultancy. In doing so, the Department has adopted the AusTender contract reporting protocols for classifying the method of procurement. Procurements identified with a method of procurement as 'Direct Source' includes procurement processes where the Department may seek tenders or quotes from a number of suppliers.

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Table of Planned Consultancy Contracts for the Remainder of Financial Year 2010-11 as at 15 October 2010

Consultancy Description	Estimated Cost	Method of Procurement	Published in Annual Procurement Plan? If not, why not?
Provision of Project Management Services for New Accommodation Project	Over \$80,000	Open Tender	Yes
Independent Review of Caring for Our Country	Over \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Consultant for Water Diversion Workshop	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Provision of Technical and Scientific Advice in relation to operation and construction of the Gunns Pulp Mill	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Cost Benefit Analysis Relating to Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Independent Review of Tillegra Dam Environmental Assessment Documentation	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Environmental Assessment Documentation Review relating to hydrological, estuary and water quality modelling	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Provision of Expert Review Relating to Estuary Modelling	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Independent Expert Review relating to the Social Impact Assessment of the Browse Basin	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Develop National Recovery Plan Related to Mary River	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Audit Committee Chair	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.

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Consultancy Description	Estimated Cost	Method of Procurement	Published in Annual Procurement Plan? If not, why not?
Audit Committee Member	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Portfolio Cost Recovery Review	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Preparation of Capital Management Plan	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Cost Benefit Analysis Related to Stockholm Convention	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Validation of Method for Compiling Australia Core Data on Waste and Recycling	Under \$80,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Scientific Investigations Relating to Emissions of Ozone Depleting Substances and Synthetic Greenhouse Gases	Under \$80,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Study Into Australian Recycling and Resource Recovery Sector	Under \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Provision of Methodology Services Relating to the Identification and separation of articles containing Stockholm Convention listed chemicals	Over \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Determine the Sustainability of the Used Oil Market in Australia	Over \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Soil Carbon Workshop Preparation and Facilitation	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Acidification and Nutrient Workshop Preparation and Facilitation	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Technical Report on Wind Erosion	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.

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Consultancy Description	Estimated Cost	Method of Procurement	Published in Annual Procurement Plan? If not, why not?
National Marine Condition Assessments Workshop	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Case Studies on the Resilience of Marine Ecosystems	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Survey on the Status of Marine Fish and Invertebrates	Over \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Marine Survey Services	Over \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Condition and Integrity Survey on Indigenous, historic and natural heritage	Over \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Review of the Sharks, Bony Fish, and Commonwealth Marine Environment Profiles	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Ecology Impact and Control Relating to Cane Toads	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Provision of Public International Law Work	Under \$80,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Development of a Guideline for Uranium in Freshwater Sediments	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Due Diligence Assessment Related to Clarence Water Transfer System	Under \$50,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Independent Review on How Best to Analyse the Benefits of the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program at the Local, Regional, Basin and National Levels	Under \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Provision of Irrigation Water Management Services	Under \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Provision of Legal Advice	Under \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.

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Consultancy Description	Estimated Cost	Method of Procurement	Published in Annual Procurement Plan? If not, why not?
Technical Review of Applications Under the Strengthening Basin Communities Program	Under \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Investigate and Quantify Salinity Impacts	Over \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Development of Water Use Plans	Over \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Expert Reference Panel Members	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Provision of Technical Support relating to refining an aquatic ecosystems classification scheme.	Under \$50,000	Direct Source	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Provision of Services Relating to the Development and Technical Review of Ramsar Wetland Documentation and Spatial Boundary Data	Under \$80,000	Panel Purchase	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.
Independent Study Relating to S255AA of the Commonwealth Water Act 2007	Over \$80,000	Direct Source (Proposed Supplier is University of Queensland)	No. The Department only advertises open market business opportunities in its Annual Procurement Plan.

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Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: BID **Question No:** 104

Broad Topic: Consultancies since Budget Estimates

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

1. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).
2. How can the department justify this expenditure?
3. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since Budget Estimates 2010 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.
4. Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?
5. Has there been any changes in the consultancies are planned for this calendar year since Budget Estimates 2010? If yes, 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, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
6. Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

Answer:

1. The Department's actual expenditure on consultancy services between 25 May 2010 and 3 November 2010 was \$8.201m (GST inclusive).

The Department publishes its consultancy contracts with a value of \$10,000 or more on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au) and in its Annual Report 2009-2010. The details on the consultancy contracts requested in the question can be obtained through either source.

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2. The Department uses consultancy services for a wide range of purposes including environmental research, risk assessment and evaluation services. The selection and engagement of consultants is undertaken in accordance with the *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*.
3. A total of 44 consultancy contracts with a value of \$10,000 or more have been entered into since 25 May 2010. The details related to these consultancy contracts (including total contract values) are published on the AusTender website. The total value of the consultancy contracts entered into since 25 May 2010 is \$5.756m.

The total expenditure on consultancy services since 25 May 2010 to 3 November 2010 is \$8.201m. Of this amount approximately \$1.439m has been expended in the 2010-11 financial year (as at 3 November 2010).

4. The Department is up to date with its reporting requirements.
5. The Department's consultancy requirements often change in accordance with departmental planning and changing requirements and environments. Planning for consultancy services sits with individual outcomes and divisions and it is not possible to accurately detail any changes to planned consultancies since Budget Estimates without a significant diversion of resources.

The Annual Procurement Plan is used by the Department to publish major tender opportunities for potential suppliers. There are currently no proposed consultancies published in the Department's Annual Procurement Plan.

6. The table below identifies current consultancy contracts with a total contract value of \$10,000 or more as at 15 October 2010. The information requested is provided in the table.

Current Consultancies as at 15 October 2010 (with a value of \$10,000 or more)		
Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Marsden Jacob Associates	Review of the National Trust Partnership Program to guide implementation in future years, from 2010-11 onwards.	Consultants demonstrated knowledge of current evaluation theory and practice and experience in evaluating projects related to the field of heritage. Independent status also required for objective evaluation.
Miltech Services Pty Ltd	Further consultancy advice relating to current aviation capabilities, and following on from the outcomes of the original review, focusing upon potential Defence support of LC130J aircraft capabilities.	This is an area with very limited technical expertise. There are only eleven known accredited Defence Material Organisation Support Services (DMOSS) Capability Development Documentation (CDD) Experienced Practitioners in Australia.

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Current Consultancies as at 15 October 2010 (with a value of \$10,000 or more)		
Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Ambidji Group Pty Ltd	The supply of a review by subject matter experts (SME) of individual tenders that AAD receives in relation to Request for Tender (RFT) 10/673 - Provision of aircraft charter services between Australia and Antarctica (air-link) to the Australian Antarctic	External Subject Matter Experts are required to undertake a review of individual tenders received to assess regulatory compliance and performance claims of tenders.
Blake Dawson	Independent legal advice, document review and preparation services, in respect of agreements entered into for a New Building project - including preparation of Expression of Interest and Request for Proposal documentation, development of pre-commitment agreement.	The nature of the legal work required is highly specialised, necessitating current insights into the procurement and leasing of Commonwealth property. Blake Dawson were selected from the department's legal panel on the basis of their Commonwealth property knowledge.
Property Beyond	To assist the New Building Team in developing leases, tender and other legal documentation associated with the sourcing of new accommodation to enable the co-location of the Department's Canberra based staff.	The nature of property sourcing, leasing and procurement expertise required and the scale of the New Building Project exceeded that available from within the Department. Property Beyond were selected via a Request for Quote process.
Capital Response Management Pty Ltd	Development of emergency management plan for the Australian National Botanic Gardens.	Specialist professional knowledge and expertise not maintained in-house.
LaTrobe University	Research into indirect Biological Control Methods for Yellow Crazy Ants on Christmas Island.	Specialist professional knowledge and expertise not maintained in-house.
CESAR Consultants	Analysis of Baiting for Yellow Crazy Ants on Christmas Island	Specialist professional knowledge and expertise not maintained in-house.
Biodiversity Division, NT Department of Natural Resources Environment, the Arts and Sport	Develop fauna surveys for fire management in Kakadu National Park	Specialist professional knowledge and expertise not maintained in-house.
Biodiversity Division, NT Department of Natural Resources Environment, the Arts and Sport	Develop biodiversity hotspot survey process for Kakadu National Park	Involved specialist professional knowledge and expertise not maintained in-house.
Uniquet Ltd	This research is required under our project objective listed in the <i>Humpback Whale Recovery Plan 2005-2010</i> ; to maintain the protection of humpback whales from	The project was procured as specialist expertise was required to carry out humpback whale research in the Gold Coast region. The data required to be

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Current Consultancies as at 15 October 2010 (with a value of \$10,000 or more)		
Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
	human threats, specifically as this relates to the increased number of whale watching vessels in operation in the Gold Coast region. The research project seeks to investigate if anthropogenic activity is having a significant impact of the East Coast humpback whale population. The research outcomes will guide policy decisions and inform of options for the future of a sustainable whale watching industry.	collected was during the southern humpback migration from August to October 2009 and the same research methodology was required for the northern migration from June - August 2010.
Bureau of Rural Sciences	ABARE-BRS is producing analyses for the department's use in the Marine Bioregional Planning program, specifically in relation to the socio-economic implications of marine reserves. This work is being progressed under an MOU between the agencies and is used as one input into preliminary reserve design and evaluation. As the program progresses, it is expected that ABARE-BRS will update and refine estimates of the socio-economic effects of proposed marine reserves. This work will feed into advice to government as well as into public reports.	ABARE-BRS has the required analytical and data handling skills for fisheries and other industry-related data as well as expertise in analysing broader socio-economic implications of government policy and programs. These capabilities are not available within the department at the level required for the analysis.
Professional Fisherman's Association	To provide fine scale fishing data to inform the development of a proposed network of Commonwealth marine reserves in the East Marine Region.	The Department contracted the Professional Fishermen's Association to consult both with members and other professional fishing groups along the NSW coast (including visits to fishing ports and co-ops). This work required a detailed understanding of the NSW fishing industry.
Queensland Seafood Industry	To provide fine scale fishing data to inform the development of a proposed network of Commonwealth marine reserves in the East Marine Region.	The Department contracted the Queensland Seafood Industry to consult with the fishing industry in Qld. This work required a detailed understanding of the Qld fishing industry.

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Bureau of Rural Sciences	A technical scientific peer review was required to assess the adequacy of a draft CITES non-detriment finding for the export of humphead wrasse (<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i>) from the Coral Sea fishery. The outcomes of the review were considered in conjunction with other information to inform decisions on future management and export of the species.	The necessary technical expertise was not available in the Department. There is an extremely limited number of experts in this field with ability to undertake such a review. A background in fisheries management, scenario population modelling, and knowledge of the fishery and biology of the humphead wrasse was required to undertake the review.
CSIRO	A consultant was required to report on the types, sources, and at sea distribution of marine debris in Australian waters. This activity is covered under the Marine Debris Threat Abatement Plan.	The necessary technical expertise was not available in the Department. The report required a significant amount of modelling to be conducted which, to be completed in the required timeframe, required external expertise.
CSIRO	To inform the development of Marine Protected Areas in the East Marine Region.	The work is scientific and requires specific expertise and data.
CSIRO	To inform the development of Marine Protected Areas in the East Marine Region.	The work is scientific and requires specific expertise and data.
Dr. Daniela Ceccarelli	To collate and summarise available literature and research pertaining to the Coral Sea to assist decision making and identify research gaps and develop options to fill these gaps.	The scientific expertise required to complete the review was not readily accessible within the Department due to competing priorities for resources.
Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd	Independent expert legal advice on water entitlement market prices in MDB.	Need for independent research or assessment
Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd	Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project Stage 2 due diligence.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd	On-Farm technical assessment of projects.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Geoscience Australia	Menindee Lakes Broken Hill Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Phase 2 - Assessment of potential for groundwater extraction or Managed Recharge to secure Broken Hill's water supply.	Need for specialised or professional skill

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Geoscience Australia	Menindee Lakes Broken Hill Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Phase 3a - Further assessment of a priority site for Managed Aquifer Recharge to secure Broken Hill's water supply, as input to MOU with NSW Government on Menindee Lakes Project.	Need for specialised or professional skill
CSIRO	Menindee Lakes - Revised Darling Water Savings Options. Modelling of options for reducing evaporative losses at Menindee Lakes.	Need for specialised or professional skill
GHD	Technical & Expert Advice to support delivery of Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program Round 1.	Skills currently unavailable within agency
PSI Asia Pacific Pty Ltd	Provision of Probity Advice Services for Water Group programs.	Need for independent research or assessment
GHD Australia Pty Ltd	Technical Advice on applications received under Strengthening Basin Communities program - Water Saving Initiatives Round 2	Need for specialised or professional skill
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Technical Advice on applications received under Strengthening Basin Communities program - Water Saving Initiatives Round 2	Need for specialised or professional skill
URS Australia Pty Ltd	Technical Advice on applications received under Strengthening Basin Communities program - Water Saving Initiatives Round 2	Need for specialised or professional skill
Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd	Assist with due diligence assessments of Tasmanian business cases under the \$140 million Supporting More Efficiency Irrigation in Tasmania Program	Skills currently unavailable within agency and Need for specialised or professional skill
Corporate Diagnostics Pty Ltd	Prepare Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme interim action and funding plan	Need for specialised or professional skill
Allen Consulting Group	Cost benefit analysis for Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme expansion	Need for specialised or professional skill
University of Technology Sydney	Cost benefit analysis for Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme	Need for specialised or professional skill
KPMG	Reviewing the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holdings Register and Special Account	Need for specialised or professional skill
CSIRO	Define water availability scenarios and improve water forecasting capacity	Need for specialised or professional skill
Geometry Pty Ltd	Design of an environmental asset database	Need for specialised or professional skill

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Griffith University	Investigation of a systematic flow allocation methodology	Need for specialised or professional skill
Barma Water Resources	Development of large water-use options and multi-year plans for use of Commonwealth Environmental Water in northern Murray Darling Basin catchments	Need for specialised or professional skill
Peter Cottingham & Associates	Development of large water-use options and multi-year plans for use of Commonwealth Environmental Water in northern Victoria river and floodplain	Need for specialised or professional skill
SKM	Development of large water-use options and multi-year plans for use of Commonwealth Environmental Water in the Murrumbidgee catchment	Need for specialised or professional skill
GHD	Development of large water-use options and multi-year plans for the Lower Murray river and floodplain, Coorong and Lower Lakes	Need for specialised or professional skill
Ecological Associates	Development of large water-use options and multi-year plans for the Mid-Murray river and floodplain	Need for specialised or professional skill
AECOM Australia Pty Ltd	This project provides for undertaking field surveys to fill key gaps in information for the development of an Ecological Character Description for the Cobourg Peninsula Ramsar wetland. A separate project has been initiated to develop the Ecological Character Description for this site, with some overlap with this project. The survey data and associated analysis is fed directly into the Ecological Character Description development project.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Christopher Auricht	Development of High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystems Guidelines - Milestone 1.1 - development of the framework	Need for specialised or professional skill
Department of Primary Industries	High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystems development with Tasmania	Need for specialised or professional skill
Elgin Associates Pty Ltd	Development of an Ecological Character Description for the Logan Lagoon Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed	Need for specialised or professional skill

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
	requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	
Hydro Electric Corporation	Completion of an Ecological Character Descriptions for the Interlaken (Lake Crescent) Ramsar wetland and the East Coast Cape barren Islands Lagoons Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Jennifer Hale	A Panel of three consultants was set up to provide for compliance and technical review of Ramsar documentation under development. This documentation includes Ecological Character Descriptions, Ramsar Information Sheets and Ramsar Management Plans. The compliance part of the review is marked against international Ramsar guidelines and the series 'National Guidelines for Ramsar Wetlands - Implementing the Ramsar Convention in Australia'. The reviews are used to provide comment and improve the quality of the Ramsar documentation.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Jennifer Hale	Development of an Ecological Character Description for the Narran Lake Nature Reserve Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill

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Current Consultancies as at 15 October 2010 (with a value of \$10,000 or more)		
Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Jennifer Hale	Development of an Ecological Character Description for the Apsley Marshes Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Jennifer Hale	Development of an Ecological Character Description for the Western District Lakes Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Jennifer Hale	Development of an Ecological Character Description for the Coongie Lakes Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

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Current Consultancies as at 15 October 2010 (with a value of \$10,000 or more)		
Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Jennifer Hale	Signing of High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystems development of the delineation guidelines	Need for specialised or professional skill
Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd	Completion of an Ecological Character Description for the Kerang Wetlands Ramsar site. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd	A Panel of three consultants was set up to provide for compliance and technical review of Ramsar documentation under development. This documentation includes Ecological Character Descriptions, Ramsar Information Sheets and Ramsar Management Plans. The compliance part of the review is marked against international Ramsar guidelines and the series 'National Guidelines for Ramsar Wetlands - Implementing the Ramsar Convention in Australia'. The reviews are used to provide comment and improve the quality of the Ramsar documentation.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Qld Department of Environment	High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystems trial for the LEB to test the guidelines	Need for specialised or professional skill
The University of New South Wales	Australian Government contribution to the Eastern Australian aerial waterbird survey. The survey for 2010 has been jointly funded by member jurisdictions of the	Need for specialised or professional skill

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
	Wetlands and Waterbirds Taskforce (under Natural). The data contributes to Australian Government capacity to respond to obligations under international treaties including the Ramsar Convention.	
WBM Pty Ltd	Development of an Ecological Character Descriptions for the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar wetland and the Corner Inlet Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill
WBM Pty Ltd	Development of an Ecological Character Description for the Cobourg Peninsula Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Wetlandcare Australia Pty Ltd	Development of an Ecological Character Description for the Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve Ramsar wetland. An Ecological Character Description provides detailed information on the ecological character of a Ramsar (internationally listed) wetland at the time of listing. They are used to: 1) meet Australia's obligations as a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, 2) to help implement legislation, particularly the EPBC Act and Water Act, and policy and, 3) is an agreed requirement for all Australian Ramsar sites by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.	Need for specialised or professional skill

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Water's Edge Consulting	Ramsar Rolling Review: Pilot testing of the remaining 45 Ramsar sites using Phase 1 Ramsar Rolling Review methodology. This information will be used as basis for ongoing review needed for prioritisation of funding to sites and reporting to the Ramsar Secretariat.	Need for specialised or professional skill
UniQuest Pty Limited	Peer review of the report - 'Analysis of possible change in ecological character of Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach Ramsar sites'. The outcomes will be used to assess possible change in ecological character at the two Ramsar sites. The Australian Government is required to report such changes as a party to the Ramsar Convention.	Need for specialised or professional skill
Sustainable Minerals Institute, University Of QLD	Independent expert study to determine the impacts of the proposed mining operations on the connectivity of groundwater systems, surface water and groundwater flows and water quality in relation to coal seam gas proposals in Qld.	Legally required to be expert and independent.
Colmar Brunton Social Research Pty Ltd	Tracking and evaluation research on the Water for the Future communication campaign	No in-house expertise in qualitative analysis of broad based communication campaigns.
Sefton and Associates	Communication activities to support the Water for the Future campaign.	Limited in-house staff resources due to focus on other activities including stakeholder engagement, advertising campaign and supporting the Minister's communication efforts.
Australian Environment Agency	Chlorpyrifos review of aquatic endpoints - finalisation of Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority review of the chemical	Highly specialised work that could not be completed by current technical staff during peak assessment periods

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Current Consultancies as at 15 October 2010 (with a value of \$10,000 or more)		
Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Australian Environment Agency	Simazine and Cyanazine review phase 2 part 1 - Scoping review for APVMA	Highly specialised work that could not be completed by current technical staff during peak assessment periods
Hyder Consulting	Development of new method for waste and recycling data	Need for independent research or assessment
Hyder Consulting	Testing and validation of new method for waste and recycling data	Need for independent research or assessment
UniQuest Pty Limited	The objective of the Services is to provide 12 months of scientifically robust data on concentrations of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in air-masses arriving in the Australian Antarctic territory. Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention states that signatories shall evaluate the effectiveness of the convention including by providing monitoring data on the presence of listed persistent organic pollutants (POPs) as well as on their regional environmental transport, including to the Antarctic and the Arctic. POPs are known to move via long range atmospheric transport from warmer to cooler parts of the northern or southern hemisphere, particularly the polar regions. While there is research available on bioaccumulation of these pollutants in humans and/or wildlife in the Arctic there is much less known about their behaviour and fate in the Antarctic.	The department does not have the technical or scientific expertise or capacity to conduct scientific research on monitoring chemicals in air in Antarctica. This project is leveraged on existing research that was already being undertaken in Antarctica and existing personnel with permission to research in Antarctica, leading to significant logistical and financial efficiencies as well as timeliness.
The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	This pilot research project will provide a robust scientific basis for considering development of Australia's first ongoing national monitoring network for persistent organic pollutants and other substances of concern. It will include development of appropriate sampling methodologies and strategies. Initially, a three year air sampling research project will be designed and undertaken for assisting in determining the sources, transport and fate of the chemicals of interest throughout Australia. The national air sampling network design options would allow Australia to meet the Stockholm Convention data reporting requirements and domestic air monitoring priorities.	The project involves undertaking original scientific research, very specialised scientific modelling of atmospheric behaviour, specialised fieldwork and scientific assessment of chemicals of concern in air at sites in Australia, none of which are capabilities within the department. It is leveraged on existing infrastructure, expertise and equipment from the service providers who are also providing in kind support, leading to significant efficiencies.

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Blue Environment Pty Ltd	Need for specialised net benefit and economic services to develop specific proposal	Need for Specialised or Professional Skills
Harford Consulting Pty Ltd	Need for independent services and advice for joint government and industry program development and implementation	Need for Independent research or assessment
The Trustee for Tamsitt Trust	Risk Analysis Services	Need for Specialised or Professional Skills
The Trustee for Tamsitt Trust	Specialised stakeholder management and engagement services for joint government and industry program development and implementation	Need for Specialised or Professional Skills
DGR Consulting Pty Ltd	Need for specialised and independent key performance indicator development services for joint government and industry program development	Need for Specialised or Professional Skills
Yellow Edge Pty Ltd	Executive Coaching - not available in Department	Skills currently unavailable within Agency
Wright Corporation	Need for independent research and analysis of recycler capacity in Australia	Skills currently unavailable within Agency
Price Waterhouse Coopers	Need for independent, specialised research and analysis and consideration of the appropriateness of the compliance exemption points for the National Television and Computer Scheme	Need for independent research and analysis of data and thresholds
Price Waterhouse Coopers	Need for additional specialist, independent research and analysis to consider additional options for a compliance exemption point and analysis of the supply chain	Need for independent research and analysis of data and thresholds - additional work required to item above
Biotropica Australia Pty Ltd	Independent expert advice required to advise on appropriate action in pursuing a compliance incident	Specific independent technical or scientific expertise was required.
Biosis	Independent expert advice required on appropriate action in pursuing a compliance incident.	Specific independent technical or scientific expertise was required.
Ecology Partners	Independent expert advice required on appropriate action in pursuing a compliance incident.	Specific independent technical or scientific expertise was required.

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Development of a recovery plan for nationally threatened plant species on Kangaroo Island, South Australia	The department does not have the specific on ground species management knowledge and understanding of the threatening processes required to develop this recovery plan.
BMT WBM Pty Ltd	Expert and independent review on the adequacy of the Technical Appendix - Dredging and Spoil Disposal Assessment pertaining to the proposed Kimberley LNG Precinct Strategic Assessment at James Price Point.	The Department does not possess the required technical analysis for the scale and nature of the dredging proposed at James Price Point.
University of Wollongong (vendor 700052) - Prof David Ayre.	Expert population genetics advice on endangered Zieria	No staff had relevant expertise to conduct the work.
WorleyParsons Services Ltd	Technical review of the hydrological information in the draft environmental impact statement for the INPEX LNG project including sediment transport modelling. This review contributed to the Departments comments on the draft EIS and our assessment of the proposal.	The Department does not have sufficient expertise in complex hydrological aspects of dredging and spoil disposal.
Dr Keith Bishop-Environmental Flows Expert	Review of the proposal to extract water from the Murrumbidgee River and pipe to Googong Dam and participation on an expert panel to determine sustainable diversion limits.	The Department does not have sufficient expertise in environmental flow requirements for fish species.
Dr Wayne Erskine - Riverine geomorphologist	Participation on an expert panel to determine sustainable diversion limits.	The Department does not have sufficient expertise in environmental flow requirements for fish species.
Water Research Laboratory, University of New South Wales	Hydrological advice for EPBC Act assessments	Understanding hydrological issues require expertise that the Department does not have
Geoscience Australia	Expert advice is required on uranium mining proposals under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The advice is required review the adequacy of proponents' assessments of uranium mining proposals in relation to hydro-geology.	Expert advice required is not available within the department

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Geoscience Australia and M.A. Habermehl	Expert advice is required on hydrological and hydro-geological matters relating to coal seam gas projects in Southern Queensland. The services have been and will be used to inform the Minister's decisions on coal seam gas projects under the Environment Pr	The advice sought required substantial specialist expertise in a range of disciplines relevant to hydrology and hydrogeology that is not available within the department.
BMT WBM Pty Ltd	Review the adequacy of the revised Dredge Management Plan - Barry Beach Marine Terminal and Barry Beach Channel. Sourced from the Sea Dumping Consultancy Panel established using an open tender process.	Technical nature of advice required (sediment chemistry).
BMT WBM Pty Ltd	Review and report on the sea dumping application for Anketell Port development - API. Sourced from the Sea Dumping Consultancy Panel established using an open tender process.	Technical nature of advice required (sediment chemistry).
BMT WBM Pty Ltd	Review and report on the sea dumping application for South West Creek Development, Port Hedland Port Authority. Sourced from the Sea Dumping Consultancy Panel established using an open tender process.	Technical nature of advice required (sediment chemistry).
Ecostrategic	Review and report on the Pluto Train 3 sampling and analysis plan. Sourced from the Sea Dumping Consultancy Panel established using an open tender process.	Technical nature of advice required (sediment chemistry).
PGM Environment	Review and report on the draft Cochrane Artificial Reef Long Term Monitoring Plan for BADARAI (artificial reef). Sourced from the Sea Dumping Consultancy Panel established using an open tender process.	Technical nature of advice required (artificial reef, water chemistry, hydrodynamics, marine engineering etc.).
Pollution Research	Review and report on the Gladstone Ports Corporation 'wedge' capital dredging sea dumping permit application. Sourced from the Sea Dumping Consultancy Panel established using an open tender process.	Technical nature of advice required (sediment chemistry).
Worley Parsons	Review and report on the Public Environment Review for the Port Hedland Outer Harbour Development including adequacy against sea dumping permit requirements. Sourced from the Sea Dumping Consultancy Panel established using an open tender process.	Technical nature of advice required (sediment chemistry).

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Consultant	Rationale & use of consultant	Why couldn't the department do the work
Worley Parsons	Review and report on the Port of Albany sea dumping permit application including review of the sampling and analysis plan. Sourced from the Sea Dumping Consultancy Panel established using an open tender process.	Technical nature of advice required (sediment chemistry).
Elton Consulting	An independent health check on contracts to support departmental contract management and decision making.	Independent Health Check of the program required

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Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD

Question No: 105

Broad Topic: Programs – overspend /
underspend

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Are there any programs within the portfolio of SEWPaC that are likely to exceed their current budget. If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).
2. Are there any programs within SEWPaC that are likely to under spend their current budget. If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

Answer:

- 1-2. The monitoring of budgets within the department and portfolio agencies is managed primarily through the establishment of annual budgets which are monitored on a monthly basis over the period under review. There is a degree of uncertainty in the forecasting of many administered programs, especially those containing projects sensitive to climate conditions and complex planning and logistical arrangements, and those being managed by other parties.

Typically, significant anticipated funding adjustments, including the movement of funds from the current year into future years, are reflected at the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements and Budget.

The Department will be reviewing the estimates for all programs prior to the 2011-12 Budget, when more information on experience will be available. A requirement to adjust estimates for underspends or overspends, particularly for administered programs, may be identified in this process.

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Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD **Question No:** 106

Broad Topic: Administrative Arrangements
Orders

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Can you describe what, if any, Administrative Arrangements Orders occurred in your portfolio between November 2007 and July 2010? Please detail the costs associated with these.
2. Can you detail what changes have occurred in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 September 2010.
 - a. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage or whether refurbishment or additional space will need to be leased to accommodate new staff. Alternatively, will agencies be left with empty office space due to loss of staff). Please provide details
 - b. Were there any staff changes as a result (staff transferring to or from your agency)? If yes, please detail what the staff changes were, including a breakdown of changes to each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band.
3. Were there any changes in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 October 2010.
 - a. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage). Please provide details.
 - b. Were there any staff changes as a result (staff transferring to or from your agency)? If yes, please detail what the staff changes were, including a breakdown of changes to each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band.

Answer:

1. A description of the Administrative Arrangements Orders that occurred within the portfolio between November 2007 and July 2010 is provided in the table below.

The vast majority of the costs associated with these Orders were accounted for in the transfer of agency functions under Section 32 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including staff costs, the costs of lease space, etc.

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Residual costs which may not have been covered in the Section 32 funding include those related to business as usual activities such as signage, removals, and time spent by departmental staff in working through administrative changes required by the Orders. As these costs are included in business as usual activities, and are not considered significant or material, they are not able to be readily identified.

Date and Transfer From / To	Functional Change
03/12/07	The Department changed from the Environment and Water Resources (DEWR) to the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)
DCITA to DEWHA	This involved the transfer of the arts and cultural affairs functions and associated staff, along with portfolio agencies from the former Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA). The lease for the Burns Centre in Canberra was transferred to DEWHA to accommodate the transferring arts and cultural staff. Portfolio agencies transferred included: • Australia Business Arts Foundation Ltd • Australia Council • Australian Film Commission • Australian Film, Television and Radio School • Australian National Maritime Museum • Bundanon Trust • Film Finance Corporation Australia Ltd • Film Australia Ltd • National Gallery of Australia • National Library of Australia • National Museum of Australia
DEWHA to DCC	This involved the transfer of climate change functions and associated staff to the newly created Department of Climate Change (DCC), along with the transfer of the lease for 2 Constitution Avenue in Canberra to accommodate these staff. At the same time, the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (a DEWHA portfolio agency) transferred to DCC.
25/01/08	No changes to either the name of the department or accommodation were required.
DAFF (NRM) to DEWHA	The department received responsibility for the administration of a loan under the <i>Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992</i> from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).
DEWHA to DRET	The department transferred 3 programs to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (DRET)
08/03/10	No change to the name of the department.

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DEWHA to DCC	The department transferred the energy efficiency functions to DCC. The department transferred the lease for Farrell Place in Canberra to the Department of Climate Change to accommodate the transferring energy efficiency staff.
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2. The department changed its name from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. In doing so, it received the population policy and housing affordability functions from the respective departments of:

- the Treasury; and
- Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

The department is also in the process of transferring the arts and cultural affairs functions, including movable cultural heritage, to PM&C. The following portfolio agencies are also transferring to the PM&C portfolio:

- Australia Business Arts Foundation Ltd
- Australian Film, Television and Radio School
- Australian National Maritime Museum
- Bundanon Trust
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- Screen Australia

- a. As outlined in the response to part 1, the majority of costs associated with the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on the 14 September 2010 are accounted for in the transfer of agency functions under Section 32 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including staff costs, the costs of lease space, etc.

Residual costs which may not covered by the Section 32 funding include those related to business as usual activities such as signage, removals, and time spent by departmental staff in working through administrative changes required by the Orders. As these costs are included in business as usual activities, and are not considered significant or material, they are not able to be readily identified.

- b. For the current Administrative Arrangements Orders, as at 30 October 2010 60 housing staff from FaHCSIA transferred into the department. Associated numbers by classification levels are as follows:

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Australian Public Service Level 4	4
Australian Public Service Level 5	10
Australian Public Service Level 6	14
Executive Level 1	24
Executive Level 2	6
Senior Executive Service Level 1	1
Senior Executive Service Level 2	1
Total	60

3. Minor corrections were made to the matters dealt with by the department and the list of legislation administered by the Minister: the Australia Council Act 1975 legislation and the Australia Council portfolio agency transferred to the PM&C portfolio.
 - a. No.
 - b. No.

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: BID

Question No: 107

Broad Topic: Employment of specific
contractors

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.
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.
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.
4. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.
5. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.
6. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.
7. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.
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.
9. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

1. The Department does not have a record of contracting Hawker Britton identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.
2. The Department does not have a record of contracting Shannon's Way identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.
3. The Department does not have a record of contracting John Utting & UMR Research Group identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.

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4. The Department does not have a record of contracting McCann-Erickson identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.
5. The Department does not have a record of contracting Cutting Edge identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.
6. The Department does not have a record of contracting Ikon Communications identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.
7. The Department does not have a record of contracting CMAX Communications identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.
8. The Department does not have a record of contracting Boston Consulting Group identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.
9. The Department does not have a record of contracting McKinsey & Company identified in the period for which records are still available and is not currently considering employing this vendor.

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Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD

Question No: 108

Broad Topic: Government payment of
accounts

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

1. 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)? 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:

Department of Sustainability, the Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC)

1. Yes. For 2010/11 financial year to date, the Department has paid 93.2% of accounts within 30 days. The standard specified in the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business (DIISR) is 90%.

The average time to pay accounts in 2009/10 was 24.4 days. Accounts not paid within 30 days were due to a number of factors including time taken to clarify and confirm invoice details, and delays in them being presented for processing.

The Department has been proactive in ensuring performance above the benchmark in regard to payments in 30 days. The Department has ensured that:

- the standard has been communicated and emphasised within the department;
 - processes have been put in place to ensure payment timing is recorded accurately;
 - a purpose-built report has been developed to provide a compliance report by division;
 - the results are being produced and communicated to divisions each month; and
 - Senior Executives are also receiving this information monthly.
2. No invoices for interest on overdue payments were received for the 2009/10 financial year and 2010/11 financial year to date.
 3. Not applicable as no interest was paid.

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Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)

1. Yes. For 2009/10 financial year, BOM paid 91.9% of accounts within 30 days. The standard specified in the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business (DIISR) is 90%.

Any delays in payments of invoices were mainly due to the requirement to confirm details provided on invoices.

To further reduce delays in the payment of invoices, the Bureau is maximising the use of purchase orders, so confirmation of details is completed at the front end of the purchasing process.

2. No invoices for interest on overdue payments were received for the 2009/10 financial year and 2010/11 financial year to date.
3. Not applicable as no interest was paid.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)

1. No. For 2010/11 financial year to date, GRBMPA has paid 89.3% of accounts within 30 days. Of these 69 (2.7% of total invoices) were to small businesses. The standard specified in the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business (DIISR) is 90%.
2. No invoices for interest on overdue payments were received for the 2009/10 financial year and 2010/11 financial year to date.
3. Not applicable as no interest was paid.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)

1. Yes. For 2010/11 financial year to date, MDBA has paid 99% of accounts within 30 days. The standard specified in the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business (DIISR) is 90%.

Accounts not paid within 30 days were due primarily to delays in them being prepared and presented for processing. 60 invoices were paid after 30 days, with an average timeframe for payment of 56 days.

Business areas have been reminded of the 30 day payment policy and of the requirement to process invoices to the accounts area as soon as possible for payment. Monitoring processes have also been revised to improve the processing of invoices.

2. No invoices for interest on overdue payments were received for the 2009/10 financial year and 2010/11 financial year to date.
3. Not applicable as no interest was paid.

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Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

National Water Commission (NWC)

1. Yes. For 2010/11 financial year to date, NWC has paid 98% of accounts within 30 days. The standard specified in the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business (DIISR) is 90%.

Reasons for the delay in the payment of invoices included, dispute over the amount to be paid, non-acceptance of goods/services provided, and errors in identified bank accounts or other errors on the invoice.

2. No invoices for interest on overdue payments were received for the 2009/10 financial year and 2010/11 financial year to date.
3. Not applicable as no interest was paid.

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

Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD

Question No: 109

Broad Topic: Staff reductions

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Has there been a target for staff reductions to achieve savings? What is that target and what strategy is being implemented to achieve this? Will staff reductions be used to achieve the Government's election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend?
2. Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff? If so, how have staff been identified for such offers? Are there such plans for the future?
3. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the current efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts since Budget Estimates s 2010? If so, where and at what level?
4. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.

Answer:

1. There has been no target for departmental staff reductions to achieve savings. No targets for future staff reductions have been established at this time.
2. There have been no voluntary or involuntary redundancies offered to departmental staff in response to savings measures.
3. At this time, departmental staffing numbers have not been reduced as a result of the current efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts since Budget Estimates 2010.
4. See answer to question 1.

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

Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

Program: Division or Agency: Corporate: CSD

Question No: 110

Broad Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Proof Hansard Page and Date Written Question
or Written Question:

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Has your portfolio started implementing the Government's savings election commitment of a maintaining the annual efficiency dividend on departmental expenses at 1.25 per cent? If not, why not? If yes, give details.
2. Will any agencies in your portfolio be seeking an exemption to implementing the efficiency dividend?
3. How do you think you will implement it? Give examples of the types of cuts you will make (i.e. no more pot plants in departmental buildings).
4. Will there be cuts to staff? If yes, give details.

Answer:

1. Yes, the department's and portfolio agencies' annual budget takes into account the 1.25% efficiency dividend.
2. No, the department and portfolio agencies will not be seeking exemption to implementing the efficiency dividend.
3. The efficiency dividend has been flowed through to each budget holder across the department and portfolio agencies. Budget holders have implemented a range of measures such as reducing travel and implementing more efficient business practices.
4. There are at this stage no plans to cut staffing numbers to fund the efficiency dividend. Staff numbers for 2011-12 will be established in the context of the 2011-12 Budget process.