

**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: PCD **Question No:** 124

**Broad Topic:** Electoral Reports

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website? If not, why not? If so, when? What data will be included?
2. Did the Department prepare electorate level reports for the Government Ministers for the 2010 election? What data is included in these reports? How often is this updated? Why is this material not publicly available? Please provide copy of latest reports.
3. Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants scheme since November 2007?

**Answer:**

1. No. To our knowledge, the department has never collected aggregated information on the department's activities in all federal electorates. Providing consistent and up-to-date information for all electorates would involve a very large commitment of staff resources.
2. No.
3. With one possible exception, the department has not provided its ministers with electorate information when recommending grants since 3 December 2007. The exception is that under the *Commonwealth Grant Guidelines*, the department is required to advise a minister who is a member of the House of Representatives if a recommended application falls within his or her electorate.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 125

**Broad Topic:** Incoming Government Briefs

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fielding asked:**

1. Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')?
  - a. Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
  - b. If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
  - c. If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
  - d. Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?
  
2. Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue Book')?
  - a. Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
  - b. If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
  - c. If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
  - d. Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

**Answer:**

1. Yes
  - a. Yes. A redacted version of the Incoming Government Brief was placed on the departmental website on 17 December 2010.
  - b. N/A
  - c. N/A
  - d. No
  
2. No. The department monitored commitments made by all parties leading-up to the election. Briefing on issues was prepared in draft form, and it was not consolidated and was not subject to final copy editing or clearance. Once the outcome of the election was clear the material relevant to the incoming Government was used to produce an Incoming Government Brief.
  - a. N/A
  - b. N/A
  - c. N/A
  - d. No

**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: PCD **Question No:** 126

**Broad Topic:** Ministerial Submissions

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. Did the Government, Minister or his office return any documents to the Department once the caretaker conventions began?
2. Did these documents include Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes?
3. How many unread, unsigned or undealt with Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes were sent back?
4. What was the date of the earliest such document that was sent back from the Minister's office and the date of the last?
5. Did the Minister or his office request prior to the calling of the election that no more submissions, briefs or notes be sent?

**Answer:**

1. Yes. Both of the department's former Ministers returned documents to the department after the caretaker period commenced prior to the 2010 election.
2. Yes.
- 3-4. 27 briefs were returned unsigned during the caretaker period. The earliest date a brief was returned was 20 July and the latest was 1 September 2010.
5. No.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 127

**Broad Topic:** FOI requests

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?
5. Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?
6. Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?

**Answers:**

The Department

1. Consistent with usual practice, advice of a general nature is available through a range of sources including Australian Government FOI guidelines, regular cross agency forums and other circulars. No specific instruction has been received or provided which indicates how individual decision makers should respond to FOI requests.
2. From Budget Estimates on 26 May 2010 to 19 October 2010, 28 FOI requests have been received.
3. From 26 May 2010 to 19 October 2010, 31 FOI requests have been finalised. These 31 applications were finalised as follows:

Granted in full – 12	Withdrawn – 10
Granted in part – 5	Transferred – 2
Refused – 2	
4. From 26 May 2010 to 19 October 2010, nil.
5. The Department has received six requests for the Incoming Government Brief or parts thereof. A redacted version of the Incoming Government Brief was placed on the departmental website on 17 December 2010.

**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

6. The Department has received a single request for the Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book'). The department does not have an Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book') for release. The department monitored commitments made by all parties leading-up to the election. Briefing on issues was prepared in draft form, it was not consolidated and was not subject to final copy editing or clearance. Once the outcome of the election was clear the material relevant to the incoming Government was used to produce an incoming government brief.

**Portfolio Agencies**

Bureau of Meteorology

1. No.
2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. None.
5. No.
6. No.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

1. No.
2. One. The application was subsequently withdrawn.
3. None.
4. None.
5. No.
6. No.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

1. The Authority has not received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests.
2. Between 26 May 2010 and 19 October 2010, the Authority received two FOI requests.

**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

3. In relation to the first request, the delegate granted access in full and in part to some of the documents, and denied access to others. In relation to the second request, the delegate denied access to one document on the basis of deferral (the document was to be released to the public on 8 October 2010) and the other document on the basis of legal professional privilege.
4. No conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests.
5. No
6. No

National Water Commission

1. No.
2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. Nil.
5. No.
6. No.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

1. No.
2. From 26 May 2010 to 19 October 2010, one FOI request was received.
3. One granted.
4. Nil.
5. No.
6. No.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 128

**Broad Topic:** Commissioned Reports

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio since Budget Estimates 2010? 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? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer:**

The following report was commissioned by the Government since Budget Estimates 2010.

**Assessment of impacts of the proposed coal seam gas operations on surface and groundwater systems in the Murray Darling Basin**

- **Date commissioned:** 11 October 2010
- **Date report handed to Government:** 1 December 2010
- **Date of public release:** 10 December 2010
- **Committee members:** No steering committee
- **Approximate cost:** \$180,000 exclusive of GST
- **Number of departmental staff and at what level:** 1 x EL2
- **Current status:** Completed
- **Terms of Reference:**
  - The study will seek to determine the impacts of the proposed mining operations on the connectivity of groundwater systems, surface water and groundwater flows and water quality in the Murray-Darling Basin.
  - The study will be conducted by an independent expert with relevant science qualifications and experience and be assisted by Geoscience Australia.
  - The study will involve a review of all available information on the proposed developments, including reports by the Queensland Coordinator General, Geoscience Australia, and other relevant information. The independent expert will be able to request further information from the CSG proponents and other experts as they see fit. In particular, the independent expert will engage with holders of relevant technical data, information and knowledge, including: the proponent companies: Santos, British Gas, AP LNG, Arrow, and Shell; science and data agencies within the Commonwealth and Queensland governments; and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 129

**Broad Topic:** Advertising and marketing

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. How much has the Department and portfolio agencies spent on advertising and marketing since Budget Estimates? Ask for justification of expenditure.
2. Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts. Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.
3. What communications programs has the Department and portfolio agencies undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken? For each program, what is the total spend?

**Answer:**

1. The department and portfolio agencies total spend on non-campaign advertising and marketing between Budget Estimates in May 2010 and 18 October 2010 was \$1,099,916.39 (excl. GST). The total advertising spend on the Water for the Future campaign was \$2,217,436 (excl. GST).

Non-campaign advertising

Expenditure on non-campaign advertising includes gazette and recruitment advertising, public notices, request for tenders and expressions of interest. Marketing expenditure includes event launches, promotional products and communication materials.

Providing specific details for each item of expenditure would involve an extensive manual process and an unreasonable diversion of resources.

<b>Non-campaign advertising and marketing</b>	
Advertising	\$601,641.50 (excl GST)
Marketing	\$498,274.89 (excl GST)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,099,916.39 (excl GST)</b>



**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

Campaign advertising

The department and portfolio agencies total media buy for the Water for the Future campaign was \$2,217,436 (excl. GST). Question on Notice 90 covers all costs associated with this campaign.

2. The department is covered by a whole-of-government contract with Universal McCann for planning and placement of campaign advertising, and Adcorp Australia Ltd for media placement of non-campaign advertising.

Water for the Future campaign contracts:

Woolcott Research	Formative and concept testing research
AJF Partnership	Creative development
Sefton and Associates	Public relations
Colmar Brunton	Tracking and evaluation research

3. The department develops and implements communication strategies for each of its major programs. These include a broad range of communication activities ranging from media and issues management, websites, publications and events to advertising and public relations activities.

The Water for the Future advertising campaign commenced on 13 October 2010 and the final advertising element concluded on 11 December 2010. Ongoing communication activities will focus on promoting Water for the Future and include stakeholder engagement, publications, support for the Minister's communication efforts, social media, and education and awareness initiatives.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 130

**Broad Topic:** Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet  
Committee Meetings

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. How much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings?
2. How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings be redrafted or relodged? Please provide example of why this would happen. (i.e. last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled).

**Answer:**

1. The department does not collect data on the time spent preparing Cabinet papers, submissions and memoranda. The amount of time spent drafting Cabinet documents varies from item-to-item according to the complexity of the matters. It would take an unreasonable amount of time and resources to collect this type of data.
2. Cabinet documents are redrafted, as a normal part of the development process, for a number of reasons including updating information or taking account of comments received. The department does not collect the data on the frequency of redrafting.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 131

**Broad Topic:** 2010 Election Commitments

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. Were any of the government's election promises in your portfolio costed before the election was called by the department or Treasury or Finance? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done.
2. Had your department or any agency in your portfolio provided information on any of the government's election promises in your portfolio to the Government before the election was called? Was any work done on formulating any of the Government's election commitments? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done.
3. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2010 election within the portfolio? Please provide a list.
4. Has implementation of the 2010 election commitments within the portfolio commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?
5. Will additional departmental resources be required to implement 2010 election commitments within your portfolio? If yes, provide details. If no, why not? If unable to provide an answer please explain why.

How will the election commitments in your portfolio be offset? Will your portfolio be required to offset the new spending in your portfolio?

**Answer:**

1. No. None of the government's election promises within the portfolio were costed before the election was called by the department, the Department of the Treasury or the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
2. No work was done by the department that related directly to the formulation of election commitments. However, some election commitments reflect a progression of work that was underway in the government's previous term and on which the department was working and providing advice prior to the election being called.
- 3-5. Answers to questions 3- 5 are provided at Attachment A.

## 2010 Election Commitments - DSEWPaC

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Has implementation commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?	Will additional departmental resources be required to implement this election commitment? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?
<b>Establish a comprehensive network of marine parks</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Marine Bioregional Plans are in preparation for the South-west, North-west, North and East marine planning regions.	<b>No.</b> The program is funded to 2010/11 and a funding provision is included in the provisional forward estimates for the out years.
<b>Green Corridor Plan</b>	<b>In progress</b>	The department is preparing implementation options for government approval along with an interim project plan for an advisory committee and extensive consultations.	<b>No.</b> Departmental costs will be accommodated within the capped funding amount.
<b>Incorporation of Koongarra Project Area into Kakadu National Park</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The Government has written to the NT Government seeking formal support for addition to the World Heritage Area in accordance with the EPBC Act, and has written to the Northern Land Council to start the process for incorporation into the park.	<b>No.</b> Addition to the World Heritage Area will have no internal financial implications for the Director due to small size of Koongarra relative to Kakadu (0.5%).
<b>Review Australia's national environment law</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>No.</b> Implementation has not yet commenced as the government is still considering its response to the Report of the Independent Review of the EPBC Act.	Resources required for implementation of this commitment are still a matter for government consideration.

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Has implementation commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?	Will additional departmental resources be required to implement this election commitment? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?
<b>Manage native species and natural resources at the landscape scale</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The commitment will be implemented through a strategic mix of new activity, such as the Green Corridors Plan, and by realigning existing activities where necessary. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Native Vegetation Framework (when finalised) will provide overarching goals and principles for the approach.	<b>No.</b> Will be managed within existing resources.
<b>Protection of Coastal Wetlands (North East NSW and South East QLD)</b>	<b>In progress</b>	The department is currently preparing advice for the Minister's consideration on options for delivery.	<b>No.</b> This project will be funded from existing Caring for our Country allocations.
<b>Bush corridors on Cumberland Plain (Western Sydney)</b>	<b>In progress</b>	The department is preparing delivery options for consideration by the Government.	<b>No.</b> To be funded through the Community Infrastructure Grants Program, a 2010-11 MYEFO measure.
<b>National Urban Water and Desalination Plan (savings)</b>	<b>Complete</b>	This saving measure was implemented in the 2010-11 MYEFO.	<b>No.</b> This is a savings commitment.
<b>National Urban Water and Desalination Plan</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The department is currently consulting with the proponents for the water savings (Perth) and water recycling (Torquay, Vic) proposals. Guidelines for the expanded stormwater program are being developed.	<b>No.</b> It will be managed within existing resources.
<b>National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns: Assistance for Nambucca Shire Council</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The department is currently consulting with the Nambucca Shire Council to finalise project details.	<b>No.</b> It will be managed within existing resources.

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Has implementation commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?	Will additional departmental resources be required to implement this election commitment? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?
<b>Bridging the gap under the Basin Plan</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Yes</b> , through the 'Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin' and the 'Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure' programs.	Resources required for implementation of this commitment were announced as a measure in the 2010-11 MYEFO.
<b>Better Profiling of Water Expenditure</b>	<b>Complete</b>	Re-profiling of water expenditure announced within the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook on 9 November 2010.	<b>No</b> . This reprofiling does not result in any change to the overall program expenditure.
<b>Towards a Sustainable Population</b>	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>Yes</b> . Meetings have been held by the three population advisory panels appointed by the government. An issues paper was released for public consultation on 16 December 2010. The consultation phase will continue until 1 March 2011.	At this stage, development of the strategy will be undertaken within existing departmental resources.
<b>Building Better Regional Cities</b>	<b>In progress</b>	The department is developing delivery options for consideration by the Government.	<b>Yes</b> . Will be dependant on final design of the program.
<b>Chaffey Dam: Augmentation</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Yes</b> . The Peel Valley Water sharing plan was completed in April 2010 to meet one of the funding conditions. Funding has been approved for this commitment and an agreement will be signed when implementation plans are finalised.	<b>No</b> . It will be managed within existing resources.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 132

**Broad Topic:** Board Appointments

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
2. What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since Budget Estimates 2010?
3. Are you implementing the Government target of 40 per cent women appointed to Boards?

**Answer:**

1. Gender ratios on each board

	Board	F:M
1	Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee (ARRAC) These numbers reflect the full ARRAC membership of 15 members and 12 deputy members. Not all attend meetings.	6:21
2	Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee	2:9
3	Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee	5:5
4	Antarctic Science Advisory Committee	3:5
5	Australia Netherlands Committee on Old Dutch Shipwrecks	1:3
6	Australian Antarctic Division Programme Human Research Ethics Committee	3:5
7	Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Committee	2:2
8	Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee	2:11
9	Australian Heritage Council	4:3
10	Booderee Joint Board of Management	4:8
11	Bureau of Meteorology Advisory Board	4:6
12	First Peoples' Water Engagement Council	2:5
13	Fuel Standards Consultative Committee	3:15
14	Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee	7:10
15	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	1:4
16	Groundwater Technical Advisory Committee	2:5
17	Hazardous Waste Technical Group	2:6
18	Independent Expert Group (Gunns)	1:7
19	Indigenous Advisory Committee	3:8
20	Kakadu National Park Board of Management	3:11
21	Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee	6:9
22	Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum Scientific Advisory Panel	1:5
23	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	2:4
24	Murray-Darling Basin Authority Basin Community Committee	7:9

**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

25	National Cultural Heritage Committee	4:6
26	National Water Commission	3:3
27	Natural Heritage Trust Advisory Committee	N/A*
28	Oil Stewardship Advisory Council	1:9
29	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Board of Trustees	N/A*
30	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	2:8
31	Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management	7:11

\* All positions currently vacant

Across the portfolio the ratio is (F:M) 93:213 or 1:2.3

2. Gender ratio of appointments made to Boards since Budget Estimates 2010

	Board	F:M
1	Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee	0:2
2	Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee	2:4
3	Australian Antarctic Division Programme Human Research Ethics Committee	1:2
4	Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Committee	1:1
5	Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee	2:11
6	Australian Heritage Council	2:2
7	Booderee Joint Board of Management	8:4
8	Fuel Standards Consultative Committee	2:16
9	Hazardous Waste Technical Group	2:6
10	Independent Expert Group (Gunns)	1:7
11	Indigenous Advisory Committee	3:8
12	Kakadu National Park Board of Management	3:11
13	National Council on Education for Sustainability	10:3
14	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	2:8

3. Since July 2010 over 40 per cent of appointees to portfolio boards have been women.



**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: PCD **Question No:** 133

**Broad Topic:** 2007 Election Commitments

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question

**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2007 election within the portfolio?
2. Which 2007 election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?
3. Are there any 2007 election commitments that will not be implemented? If yes, please provide details. Were departmental resources provided to implement these commitments? How much? What will happen to the funding now?

**Answer:**

Answers to questions 1 – 3 are provided within the table at [Attachment A](#).

## 2007 Election Commitments - DSEWPaC

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<b>Establishment of a Greenhouse Emissions Trigger under the EPBC Act 1999</b>	<b>Not current Government policy.</b> On the publication of the Final Report of the Independent Review of the EPBC Act, the Minister stated that the Australian Government favours a market-based system to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, and for that reason if the CPRS is passed there will be no need for a greenhouse trigger to be introduced, even as an interim measure.	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>No</b>
<b>Saving the Tasmanian Devil</b>	<b>In Progress.</b> Actions proceeding in accordance with Tasmanian Government strategic and annual business plans with Caring for our Country funding support.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tamar Valley Pulp Mill:</b> Approval of the Gunns Pulp Mill project.	<b>In Progress.</b> The company continues to work towards the deadline of 3 March 2011 for the approval of the remaining modules of the mill's Environment Impact Management Plan as set out in the former Minister's decision of 5 January 2009.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Assessment of Albert Hall for Inclusion on National Heritage List</b>	<b>Completed.</b> The nomination has now lapsed. The AHC is currently assessing Canberra for potential National Heritage Listing, which will include consideration of important buildings within Canberra. \$500,000 has been provided for restoration through the Attorney General's Department.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Listing of Appropriate Areas of Cape York on the World Heritage List</b>	<b>In Progress.</b> The Australian and Queensland Governments have drafted a roadmap to progress World Heritage listing of appropriate areas of Cape York which provides for the consent of traditional owners.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<b>Fast Tracking of National Heritage Listing of Adelaide Botanic Gardens</b>	<b>Completed.</b> Included in the National Heritage List as part of The Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout in 2008.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Handover of Point Nepean:</b> Transfer Commonwealth land to the Victorian Government.	<b>Completed.</b> Transferred to Victoria in June 2009.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Independent Expert Body for Heritage Listing</b>	<b>In progress.</b> This issue was considered in the Independent Review of the EPBC Act. The Government is currently considering its response to the Review Report.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Judith Wright's Home:</b> Consideration for National Heritage listing.	<b>Completed.</b> The department advised the Minister that 'Edge' did not have National Heritage values.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<b>Protection of the Kokoda Track:</b> Assistance for the management and long term protection.	<b>In progress.</b> On 8 July 2010, Australian and PNG Foreign Ministers signed a Second Joint Understanding (2010-2015) building on progress to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide support to Track communities to improve livelihoods.</li> <li>- Reform and assist the Kokoda Track Authority.</li> <li>- Assist PNG's Department of Environment and Conservation to establish interim protection for the Kokoda Track, and to progress a sustainable development plan for the long term wise use and conservation of the region.</li> <li>- Implement the Kokoda Track Safety Package - all activities due for completion by June 2011.</li> <li>- Assist PNG Government to conduct a feasibility study into a possible World Heritage nomination - draft to be completed in February 2011.</li> </ul>	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes.</b> The program will continue to be implemented under the Second Joint Understanding between PNG and Australia on the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track Region (2010-2015).
<b>Nomination of Ningaloo Reef - Cape Range in WA for World Heritage Listing</b>	<b>Completed.</b> Nomination submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 28 January 2010.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Indigenous Emissions Trading Program:</b> Provide opportunities for indigenous participation.	<b>In Progress.</b> Workshops informing Indigenous organisations about carbon market opportunities have been undertaken. EOIs are being sought for case study development of Indigenous reforestation carbon projects.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes.</b> As outlined.
<b>Indigenous Rangers Program - Working on Country (WOC)</b>	<b>In Progress.</b> Over 230 Indigenous rangers contracted at February 2010 with the program on track to contract 300 rangers by June 2013.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes.</b> As outlined.

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<b>Community Coast Care</b>	<b>In Progress.</b> Funding for the Coastcare election commitment is delivered through the annual Caring for our Country business plan and Community Action Grants.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Gippsland Lakes Communities (\$5.25m of \$11m Package):</b> Increased uptake of land management practices. Eastern Creek run-off infrastructure.	<b>In Progress.</b> <b>1. Gippsland Lakes Enhancement Program:</b> – The program for the first year (2008-09) of the election commitment was completed satisfactorily. – The program for 2009-11 is on track and due for completion by June 2011. <b>2. Eastern Creek Nutrient Stripping Wetlands and Flood Mitigation Program:</b> – Construction of the diversion pipeline is complete. – The retarding basins are nearing the construction phase. – The construction of a drainage channel lined with concrete for the full length of Eastern Creek is at the stage of final public consultation.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Great Barrier Reef Rescue Plan:</b> Improved quality of water entering the GBR lagoon.	<b>In Progress.</b> The Reef Rescue initiative has spent or committed nearly three quarters of the funding to date across grants to farmers to improve the quality of water leaving their land, monitoring and evaluation, and partnerships.	<b>No.</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<p><b>International Whaling:</b> Leadership in international forums.</p> <p>Legal action against whaling nations.</p> <p>National network of whale and dolphin sanctuaries.</p>	<p>Participating actively in discussions on the future of the IWC.</p> <p>On 31 May 2010 the government initiated legal action in the International Court of Justice against Japan's so-called 'scientific' whaling. Australia's memorial is due in May 2011.</p> <p>Sanctuaries initiative in progress. Senior Commonwealth-State officials meeting scheduled on 23 November.</p> <p>Important areas for whales in Commonwealth waters (as well as dugong and turtles) are being identified through Marine Bioregional Plans.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>1. Yes.</b> The government is working during the period of reflection to implement a practical program of collaboration within the IWC on areas of conservation reform where agreement already exists.</p> <p><b>2. Yes.</b> Case ongoing.</p> <p><b>3. Yes.</b> The government will continue to work with to progress a range of whale conservation initiatives including the Sanctuaries commitment.</p>
<p><b>National Cane Toad Plan:</b> Reducing the impact of cane toads.</p>	<p><b>In progress.</b> Under Caring for our Country, over \$2.3 million has been delivered for research projects and to enable community based groups to engage in cane toad control activities. A draft threat abatement plan under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the Act) has been developed.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> The development of the plan has experienced minor delays due to it being subject to EPBC Act requirements.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the plan will be provided to the Minister for consideration by late 2010 or early 2011.</p>	<p><b>None</b></p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Subject to the Minister's approval, the plan will be developed as per the commitment.</p>

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<b>National Plan to Care for our Coasts.</b>	<b>In Progress.</b> The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts tabled the report of its inquiry into coastal issues in October 2009. The Government tabled its response to the inquiry report on 23 November 2010.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes.</b>
<b>Expand the Indigenous Protected Areas Program</b>	<b>In progress.</b> A total of 40 IPAs have been declared, covering over 23.6 million hectares since the inception of the IPA program. An additional 37 projects have been initiated and are progressing toward IPA declaration. (figures include IPAs/projects underway before the commitment to expand the program was made).	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Protection of Western Sydney's Cumberland Plain Woodland Areas</b>	<b>Largely completed.</b> In June 2009 the Australian Government largely delivered on its investment commitment to developing the Cumberland Plain Conservation Corridor when it assisted the New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW DECCW) to acquire the 181 hectare property known as 'Cranebrook'. Discussions are continuing regarding the devolvement of Llandilo/Shane's Park property from Air Services Australia to NSW DECCW to contribute to the Cumberland Plain Conservation Corridor.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>
<b>National Sustainability Council and Commissioner</b>	<b>In Progress.</b> The government's commitment to sustainability is being progressed through the development of a Sustainable Population Strategy.	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Sustainable Population Strategy is due for release in 2011.

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<b>Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Australia's World Heritage &amp; Iconic Areas - Development Phase:</b>	<b>In Progress.</b> In 2009, DEWHA and DCC published a study: <i>Implications of Climate Change for Australia's World Heritage Properties: a Preliminary Assessment</i> , assessing the exposure, potential impacts and adaptive capacity of WH properties to climate change, and identifying major knowledge gaps. The department will continue working towards a draft plan in consultation with relevant stakeholders. In particular, these issues are being considered by governments through the Environment Protection and Heritage Council. Senior officials are expected to discuss these issues further in early 2011.	<b>No</b>	N/A.	N/A.	Yes
<b>Investing in Murray Darling Infrastructure - Menindee Lakes</b>	<b>In progress.</b> MOU to implement election commitment signed with NSW Government in July 2010. The MOU commits the governments to joint technical investigations to determine the shape of a future project. These investigations are nearing completion.	<b>Yes.</b> By at least one month due to weather delaying technical investigations, and complex hydrological modelling requirements.	No significant implications.	Completing project within the timeframes initially agreed in the MOU with NSW Government is not possible.	<b>Yes</b> , but superseded by MOU in July 2010.
<b>Investing in Murray Darling Infrastructure - Wimmera Mallee Pipeline</b>	<b>Completed.</b> Construction completed in April 2010.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Investing in Murray Darling Infrastructure - Adelaide Desalination Plant</b>	Being progressed under the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan (refer separate entry below).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<b>Investing in Murray Darling Basin Water Infrastructure - Warren and Nyngan pipeline</b>	<b>Problematic.</b> Neither Bogan Shire Council or the NSW Government were prepared to co-invest in the project in the period 2007-2010. The commitment is unlikely to be able to be delivered in its current form without a new agreement with NSW on cost sharing.	<b>Yes.</b> Due to difficulty reaching agreement with proposed co-funders.	N/A	N/A	<b>To be determined.</b> The project is still awaiting the identification of co-funding, a suitable project and proponent.
<b>Upper Spencer Gulf Desalination Plant</b>	<b>Completed.</b> The proponent decided not to proceed.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Lithgow (Delta Electricity) Recycled Water project</b>	<b>In progress.</b> Stage 1 (planning for proposal) of this project has been completed. Stage 2 (final design and implementation) is underway.	<b>Yes.</b> Some milestone slippage as a result of delays in Lithgow Council finalising the tender process to engage an environmental consultant and resolve identified cost overruns for the project.	The project is still expected to be completed on time.	Delay in Lithgow Council commencing the environmental assessment process; however this is not expected to affect the project finish date.	<b>Yes.</b> As outlined.
<b>Recycled Water for Oberon Timber Complex</b>	<b>Completed.</b> The proponent decided not to proceed.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Title of Commitment	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?	Is the election commitment experiencing slippages? Why?	If relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?	What are the implications of this slippage?	Will this commitment continue to be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
<b>Streamline the cumbersome and complex federal water bureaucracy:</b> Streamline managing bodies, merge MDBA and MDBC, MDBA with primary responsibility for the Water Act 2007.	<b>Completed.</b> The former MDBC and MDBA were brought together as a single operation from 15 December 2008, pursuant to agreement reached with the Basin States on the 3 July 2008 (agreement on Murray Darling Basin Reform).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Respecting farmers' important role in land and water management:</b> Close consultation on improving water efficiency and dealing with over allocation. Draw on local knowledge on sustainable water use.	<b>Completed.</b> The department has established a range of stakeholder panels including for Water Recovery and Environmental Use and for National Irrigation Efficiency. The Murray Darling Basin Authority has established the Basin Community Committee to advise it about the performance of the authority's functions.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes.
<b>Bring forward \$400 million in funding under the National Plan for Water</b>	<b>Completed.</b> \$400 million was brought forward in the 2007-08 Estimates process. Subsequent adjustments have substantially increased this amount.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<b>Ensuring the Proper Development of the Water Market</b>	<b>In progress.</b> All jurisdictions endorsed the National Water Market System model in October 2009. The development of a \$56 million National Water Market System was then publicly announced in November 2009. The first stage of the project (a national website) went live in April 2010. The NWMS will strengthen Australia's water market through efficient management of improved state and territory water registers, water transactions and availability of market information. The water market rules and termination fee rules are in full force. The water planning and management charge rules were made in July 2010. The water trading rules are under development as part of the Basin Plan. Service standards for trade processing times by Basin state approval authorities were introduced in January 2009 for allocation trade and in July 2009 for entitlement trade.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Returning flows to the Snowy River</b>	<b>In progress.</b> Final payment will be made of the \$50 million commitment during 2010-11. Water for Rivers has secured 215 GL of entitlements so far, with further entitlements to be recovered by projects underway. The Snowy Scientific Committee is established.	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes.</b> The commitment will continue to be implemented through the Australian Government's commitment of resources to Water for Rivers through the Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation deed until 30 June 2012.
<b>Western Australia Irrigation - Harvey Water/Gascoyne Irrigation Pipeline Project</b>	<b>In progress.</b> Harvey Water Piping Project has been completed. Gascoyne Irrigation Pipeline Project (GIPP) being implemented through a National Partnership Agreement.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes.</b> Gascoyne project scheduled for completion 31 December 2011.

<b>Supporting more efficient irrigation in Tasmania.</b>	<p><b>In progress.</b> The department has completed the National Partnership Agreement and Implementation Plan with Tasmania.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CSIRO Sustainable Yields project has been completed and the findings will be used to underpin the future planning and sustainable management of Tasmania's water resources.</li> <li>- In early 2010 two proposals, the Headquarters Road Dam and the Whitmore Irrigation Scheme, received funding approval, with both projects due for completion in early 2011.</li> <li>- Tasmania has submitted a Midlands Water Scheme business case, which is currently undergoing an Australian Government due diligence assessment.</li> <li>- A Winnaleah Scheme business case has been submitted for a preliminary Australian Government review prior to the commencement of formal due diligence assessment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No.</b> Progress with respect to projects under the \$140 million election commitment is contingent on the submission of business cases by Tasmania for the purpose of Australian Government due diligence assessment.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<b>National Urban Water and Desalination Plan</b>	<p><b>In progress.</b> The Glenelg to Adelaide parklands recycling project is completed and was launched on 11 January 2010. The Adelaide Desalination Project (ADP) and the Geelong-Shell recycling project are progressing. The first stage of the ADP funding (\$100m) has been contractually committed with \$60 million paid. The call for major infrastructure project proposals in desalination, water recycling and stormwater closed on 30 June 2009 with three projects approved for funding. All applicants (successful and unsuccessful) have been notified of the outcome. The two National Centres of Excellence have been established (see separate entry below).</p>	<p><b>No.</b> The program and the majority of projects are proceeding on schedule.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Contracts will be managed as projects progress.</p>
<b>Specific investments in urban water infrastructure - Australian Water Fund</b>	<p><b>In progress.</b> Three specific project commitments have been completed. The remaining three are meeting milestones. Over 90% of the funds have been expended.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Remaining three projects will be managed through to completion.</p>

<p><b>National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns:</b> Investments to minimise water loss.</p>	<p><b>In progress.</b> Of nineteen specific project commitments, four projects have been completed and the remaining projects have either commenced and are well advanced or construction is yet to commence. The competitive element of the program has been finalised with 36 projects approved in April 2010. To support the implementation of the COAG Strategy on Water and Wasterwater Services in Remote (including Indigenous) Communities 18 projects were also approved under the program in April 2010.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Projects will continue to be managed through to completion.</p>
<p><b>Green Precincts:</b> Investments in high profile water and energy savings projects.</p>	<p><b>In progress.</b> 13 Green Precinct Fund projects were announced between 12 July 2009 and 23 September 2009. 12 projects are in progress and meeting milestones.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Contracts are in place.</p>
<p><b>Centres of Excellence in Desalination and Water Recycling</b></p>	<p><b>Completed.</b> The two National Centres of Excellence in Desalination and Water recycling (NCED and NCEWR) have been established. Funding for the NCED was announced on 15 May 2009. Subsequently, two funding rounds for research proposals have been held with 12 proposals receiving funding from the first round. The assessment process for the second round of research proposals is currently underway. Funding of the NCEWR was launched on 24 March 2010. There have been two calls for expressions of interest for research proposals which are currently being assessed. Successful research proposals are expected to be announced late 2010 or early 2011.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Funding will be provided over five years.</p>
<p><b>Water Efficiency Opportunities.</b></p>	<p><b>In progress.</b> The program is meeting milestones. The Prime Minister's Water Wise Awards were announced on 9th March 2010.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> The Prime Minister's Water Wise Awards will continue.</p>

<b>National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative:</b> Investment and rebates for rainwater and greywater installations.	<b>In progress.</b> Surf Life Saving Club applications closed on 31 January 2010. There are sufficient funds available to enable both existing commitments and future demand to be met.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes.</b> The surf life saving clubs element will conclude by 30 June 2011. Household rebates are available until March 2014.
<b>30% Wastewater Recycling by 2015</b>	<b>In progress.</b> A number of urban programs are actively contributing to achieving this goal including the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan, the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns, the Green Precincts Fund, and the Strengthening the Basin Communities program.	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes.</b> A number of urban programs are contributing to this goal.
<b>Single Coherent National Water Strategy</b>	<b>Completed.</b> 'Water for the Future' was announced by Minister Wong on 28 April 2008.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Restoration of Tuggerah Lakes Coastal Estuary System</b>	<b>In progress.</b>	<b>Yes.</b> There is a >\$2 million underspend from the Stage 1 contract, which is delaying negotiations on Stage 2.	The overall five year plan remains broadly on track.	The works program will need to be delivered over a shorter timeframe.	<b>Yes</b>
<b>National Rental Affordability Scheme:</b> Reducing the cost of new homes.	<b>In progress.</b> 17,500 incentives allocated with approximately 2,500 dwelling built and available for rent.	<b>Yes.</b> The Global Financial Crisis impacted on the residential construction industry and the ability of investors to secure finance.	In June 2010, PM Gillard announced an extension to the delivery of 50,000 from 30 June 2012 to June 2014.	Extends the Scheme to 2024.	<b>Yes.</b> Assessment of applications under Round 3 are ongoing. Round 4 closes in Dec 2010.

<b>Housing Affordability Fund</b>	<b>In progress.</b> Most projects are on track with milestones met. Variations to timelines have been agreed for some projects. A competitive grant round closed on 8 January 2010.	A small number of projects have encountered delays due to factors such as inclement weather and delays in obtaining financial security.	N/A	Some projects will be delivered outside the original project timelines.	<b>Yes,</b> in accordance with contractual agreements.
<b>Establish a National Housing Supply Research Council</b>	<b>Completed.</b> The National Housing Supply Council was established in May 2008 and has since produced two State of Supply Reports	<b>No</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Yes,</b> in accordance with program budget.

**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: PCD

**Question No:** 134

**Broad Topic:** Reviews

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since Budget Estimates 2010?
2. Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since Budget Estimates 2010 including: when those reviews were provided to Government; estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost); and 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?

**Answers:**

Department

1. Ten reviews have been identified that are either completed or ongoing or affecting the department since Budget Estimates (24 May) 2010.



2. A breakdown of reviews completed since Budget Estimates in May 2010 is provided in the table below.

	<b>Name of Review</b>	<b>Date provided to Govt</b>	<b>Estimated cost \$ (ex GST)</b>	<b>Govt response</b>
i.	Review of Whale Recovery Plans 2005-2010 (5 species)	May 2010	24,905	Whale recovery plans will be revised based on outcomes of the review.
ii.	A review of the Water Efficiency and Labelling Standards (WELS) Scheme	June 2010	152,000	A joint governments' initial response was released on 7 December 2010. A final response is expected to be released during 2011-12.
iii.	Independent Review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Structural Adjustment Program	June 2010	79,500	The outcomes of the review will be an input into existing and future policy development.
vi.	Review of the National Trust Partnership Program	17 September 2010	26,100	The Department is implementing the recommendation in administration of the National Trust Partnership Program.
v.	Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Program Review of the impact of 2010 aerial baiting on non-target species	20 October 2010	30,000	The Government response was released in November 2010.
vi.	NRM Ministerial Council review of the National Biodiversity Strategy	Released on 27 October 2010	2,346,811 <sup>1</sup>	The Government released a Revised Strategy on 27 October 2010 based on the review.

3. Four reviews have been identified as ongoing:

- i. Lord Howe Island Marine Park Commonwealth Waters Management Plan review.
- ii. Review of the Threat Abatement Plan: Predation, Habitat Degradation, Competition and Disease.
- iii. Review of the Threat Abatement Plan: Beak and Feather Disease Affecting Endangered Psittacine Species.
- iv. Environmental Stewardship Program review.

4. Apart from those in the response to Question 2, no further reviews have been identified since Additional Estimates in February 2010.

5. Two further reviews are currently planned.

- i. Review of the Caring for Our Country initiative in 2011.
- ii. Evaluation of the Heritage Component of the Jobs Fund planned for June 2011.

<sup>1</sup> This figure covers the period of the review (2006-2010) and includes staff salary costs (\$1,662,700), payments to external consultants (\$196,200), secretariat and task group support costs, including travel and meeting expenses (\$125,000), professional services and other costs including design, editing, printing, etc. (\$362,911).

6. No reviews ceased due to the 2010 Election.

### Portfolio Agencies

Portfolio agencies have identified the following reviews as either completed, ongoing or planned.

1. The National Water Commission commissioned one review since Budget Estimates in May 2010: Review of the National Water Initiative as provided for by s7 (2) (i) of *The National Water Commission Act 2004*.
2. Nil.
3. The National Water Commission identified one review as ongoing - Review of the National Water Initiative as provided for by s7 (2) (i) of *The National Water Commission Act 2004*.
4. Nil.
5. The National Water Commission (NWC) has identified one planned review. The *National Water Commission Act 2004* requires that following NWC's review of the National Water Initiative and the reporting of the review outcome to the Council of Australian Governments, a review of the NWC's ongoing role and functions in relation to the management and regulation of Australia's water resources must be undertaken by the end of 2011.
6. Nil.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 135

**Broad Topic:** 2010 Election work  
undertaken

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. What type of work did your portfolio engage in during the campaign?
2. Did you receive any requests for information from the Government, your portfolio Ministers or any other Ministers?
3. Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?
4. Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?

**Answer:**

1. In line with the Caretaker Conventions, the work undertaken by the department during the campaign was limited to that required to support the continuation of government business and address ordinary matters of administration. The department avoided major policy decisions, significant appointments and major contracts or undertakings.
2. The department received a number of requests for factual information during the campaign, to which it responded in accordance with the Caretaker Conventions.
3. A redacted version of the Incoming Government Brief was placed on the departmental website on 17 December 2010.
4. No. The department does not have an Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book'). The department monitored commitments made by all parties leading-up to the election. Briefing on issues was prepared in draft form, it was not consolidated and was not subject to final copy editing or clearance. Once the outcome of the election was clear the material relevant to the incoming Government was used to produce an incoming government brief.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 136

**Broad Topic:** Community Cabinet

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates 2010?
2. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?
3. What was the total cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office?

**Answer:**

1. The costs of the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts' travel to the Perth (WA) Community Cabinet Meeting held on 9 June 2010 cannot be disaggregated from the costs of travel undertaken for other purposes and to other destinations during the same trip. As at 14 July 2010, the Department of Finance and Deregulation had paid \$4,006.70 for the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts' travel on this trip.
2. The Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts was accompanied by two ministerial staff members to the Perth Community Cabinet meeting.

Three departmental officers from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) attended the Perth Community Cabinet meeting to support both the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts and the Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water.

3. The total cost of travel for the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, his ministerial staff and accompanying departmental officers to attend the Perth Community Cabinet meeting was \$14,461.12. This total includes the cost of travel by the Minister and a staff member undertaken for other purposes and to other destinations during the same trip.
4. The total cost to the department for travel to Community Cabinet meetings held between Budget Estimates 2010 and October 2010 was \$4,010.83. The total costs to the Minister's Office cannot be disaggregated from the costs of travel undertaken for other purposes and to other destinations during the trip, which included attendance at the Perth Community Cabinet meeting. As at 14 July 2010, the Department of Finance and Deregulation had paid \$10,450.29 in relation to travel by the Minister and his staff on this trip.

**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

Notes:

- The portfolio responsibilities of the former Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water related to two departments. Her travel and associated costs are reported in a separate response provided by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. However, the costs for DEWHA officers who travelled to support the Minister have been included in this response.
- The above figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance (including Motor Vehicle Allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information provided by Cabcharge) or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).

**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: PCD **Question No:** 137

**Broad Topic:** Media Monitoring

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office in the 2009/10 financial year? Which agency or agencies provided these services.
2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department and its agencies in the 2009/10 financial year? Which agency or agencies provided these services.

**Answer:**

- 1-2. The then Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts engaged Media Monitors Pty Ltd in the 2009-10 financial year to provide a media monitoring service to the department.

A separate service was not provided to the Ministers, but they had full access to the department's daily media monitoring service.

The service included press clips, broadcast summaries and electronic media transcripts.

The cost of media monitoring services in 2009-10 was \$643,246.43 (GST exclusive).

**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: IMD **Question No:** 138

**Broad Topic:** Social Media

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

Has the department instituted any policies or protocols that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs?

IF YES: please explain what restrictions has been put in place. Why were these restrictions put in place?

IF NO: Why not? (for example there may be legitimate reasons for some staff to access these sites for legitimate purposes). Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time are these sites most accessed (i.e. lunch time?). Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites?

**Answer:**

The department has implemented policies and guidelines that govern the use of YouTube and other online social media, such as FaceBook, Twitter, online discussion forums and blogs.

The *Social Media – personal use policy* provides direction to all employees as to appropriate personal use of social media/networking during work hours. The approach is consistent with policy on the use of other areas of the internet for personal use during work hours.

The *Social Media – business use policy* provides direction to all staff as to appropriate business use of social media/networking tools.

The *Guidelines for the use of social media* sets out how the department develops and uses social media tools and supports the above policies.

The purpose of these policies and guidelines is to provide a clear governance and accountability framework to underpin the use of social media tools by staff.

In addition, the department has an *Internet Bandwidth Management Policy*, which governs the use of high bandwidth applications to maintain performance for business-critical services, and maintains logs of all Internet browsing by staff for audit purposes.

**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: PCD **Question No:** 139

**Broad Topic:** Outstanding questions on  
notice

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written Question  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

If there are any outstanding questions on notice from Budget Estimates 2010: please explain why there are still some outstanding questions on notice from Budget Estimates 2010.

**Answer:**

There are currently no outstanding questions on notice from Budget Estimates 2010 for the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio.