

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 18-19 OCTOBER 2010

SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, WATER, POPULATION AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	1: GBRMPA	Ludlam	Talisman Saber exercises – role of GBRMPA	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Is it the case that the authority distributed copies of the TS2009 public environment report and other materials related to this massive joint military exercise within your domain of the marine park including show bags with balloons?</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt</b>—I am not aware of what sort of materials were involved at that function. ...</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Are you able to take that on notice and provide us with the show bag, if such a thing existed? I am referring specifically to the TS2009 open day in Rockhampton, so that might give you some point of reference to start with. I would have thought that promotion is actually a conflict of interest with your core objective of protection of the marine park.</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt</b>—I will look into it and inform you of what that involvement was. Our involvement is as a reviewer of their material and directions for ensuring the environmental safety of the marine park.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Which I think is appropriate, so let us turn to that. What role do you have in monitoring and assessing the impacts of these exercises? I think they are the largest that are undertaken in Australia at any given time. They occur every two years and it is a huge deployment of American air, sea and land forces and armour and all sorts of other stuff, including live fire exercises and so on. When the war games are actually occurring, what role does the authority play in monitoring and assessing those impacts?</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt</b>—I am aware we attend the initial briefings of all the offices and countries involved at the outset. We are involved in, as I said, assessing their environmental impact and public environment report. We have a number of staff in the field in Shoalwater Bay during the exercise who attend the daily briefings and visit various parts where they are able to visit, given that it is a military exercise.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Can you provide us with some material on notice, anything at all about the activities of those offices, in particular the ones who were on site at the time?</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt</b>—Yes, I can.</p>	107-108 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
2	1: SSD	Ludlam	Rum Jungle technical working group	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Last time you spoke to us about the national partnership agreement on the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle uranium site and explained that you are part of the technical working group that oversees the activities of that</p>	110-111 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11

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				<p>working group. Can you table the full membership of the technical working group, particularly names and organisations and any expertise that is relevant to the membership of the group?</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr Hughes</b>—It has formal membership in terms of departments or organisations.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—So I am asking for the full membership of that working group.</p> <p><b>Mr Hughes</b>—Okay. It is the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, Supervising Scientist Division, the Northern Territory Department of Resources, the Northern Territory Department of—sorry, I only know the acronym, and it is rather large.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—And I will probably not know it. Could you please table the agencies and the names of the people who attend those meetings? You can take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Hughes</b>—Okay.</p>			
3	1: SSD	Ludlam	ERA monitoring of Ranger mine	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Thank you very much. I want to come back to the electrical conductivity spike in April of this year that we have spoken about a couple of times downstream from the Ranger mine in Kakadu National Park, including uranium in the water. We had quite a long exchange about real time water monitoring and found ourselves in furious agreement that such a thing is good. You had undertaken to advocate real time public water monitoring as the best way to test and evaluate contamination of waterways downstream from the Ranger mine. You indicated that you would raise that at the next mine site technical committee. I am hoping that you have got some good news for us as to how your advocacy has gone in that regard.</p> <p><b>Mr Hughes</b>—That has been raised at the mine site technical committee. It has also been raised with Energy Resources of Australia, who have undertaken to install a vastly increased real-time monitoring network around the site and in the stream.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—What commitments or undertakings have been made on what that network will look like and when it will be in place?</p> <p><b>Mr Hughes</b>—I cannot make any undertakings on how long it will take ERA to install the network that they are intending. They were hoping to have it in place for this wet season. We will be running our upstream and downstream continuous monitoring stations this wet season and we intend this year to be publishing continuous monitoring data on our website.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—That is great. Do you know how many monitoring points there will be on the ERA sites?</p> <p><b>Mr Hughes</b>—I understand they are intending to install seven monitoring points.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Are you able to provide for us on notice a map of where they are likely to be located?</p> <p><b>Mr Hughes</b>—I guess we can do that, yes.</p>	111 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11

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4	1: SSD	Abetz	Ranger mine - Water quality monitoring	<p>1. With regard to the water quality monitoring program for Ranger, is the monitoring programme being expanded or becoming more intense?</p> <p>2. Could you please update us on how actively is the Supervising Scientist Division monitoring this issue? In light of what has been discussed, do you consider that the level of resourcing you allocate to the monitoring of the Ranger mine in general to still be adequate?</p> <p>3. The issue of seepage from the Ranger tailings dam continues to attract attention. Has there now been any movement of radionuclides away from the immediate footprint of the dam and if there has been any impact on Kakadu National Park?</p> <p>4. With further data now gathered, can you please provide any update on results from the monitoring program in terms of the levels of radionuclide migration from the ranger tailings dam?</p> <p>5. With further water quality information now gathered in Magela Creek, what is it telling us for that EC Spike reported in April? Has the monitoring programme indicated that any radionuclides have impacted the water anywhere?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
5	1.1: AGLC	Siewert	WA region funding under Caring for our Country	<p><b>[EC 119]</b>  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I will obviously be putting a series of questions on notice around that. Could you take on notice how many of the applications were successful and what was the level of funding on those applications. ...</p> <p><b>[EC 128]</b>  <b>Mr Flanigan</b>—You are back to the EPBC Act. I will flick to my colleague at the end of the table. While we are waiting for this colleague, Senator Siewert asked a question of me earlier. I can give the answer now. Under the 2010-11 business plan open call there were 614 applications worth an estimated \$277 million, 168 projects worth approximately \$60 million have been approved in the first round and there are approximately 67 projects worth approximately \$27.8 million on the reserve list.  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Can you take on notice why only four of the WA regions have been funded on the website? I have just looked on the website and see it is only four of our six regions.  <b>Mr Flanigan</b>—All of your regions would have received their base-level funding, but I will check that.  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Only four of them are on the website.  <b>Mr Flanigan</b>—I will take that on notice.</p>	119 and 128 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
6	1.1: AGLC	Colbeck	Eradication of foxes in Tasmania	<p>1. Can you please advise on the status of funding for the eradication of foxes in Tasmania? Can you please provide a breakdown on the funding over the forward estimates?</p> <p>2. What performance measures are associated with this funding?</p> <p>3. How many Federal Departmental officers dedicated to this project? Full time?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

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				Part time?			
7	1.1: AGLC	Siewert	Caring for our Country projects	<p>1. Has the independent panel of experts been consulted during the assessment process for the most recent round of grants? If yes, what components of the Business Plan assessment did the independent panel of experts consult on? If no, why not?</p> <p>2. What is the purpose of 'reserve projects' in this funding round? Have reserve projects been identified in previous funding rounds?</p> <p>3. When is the Business Plan for 2011-12 going to be released? What process is being used to develop the plan?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
8	1.1: PAD	Siewert	National Reserve System applications	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That leads to my next question. Were there properties identified for purchase that you were unable to fund because you ran out of money? I am aware that I am asking a complicated question because we have been through the way the contracts are organised.</p> <p><b>Ms West</b>—Certainly the competitive process was over-subscribed so there are some that we have not been able to process. I can not nominate what they are right now.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Were those properties assessed and judged to be of value but were not able to be purchased because you ran out of funds?</p> <p><b>Ms West</b>—I believe that is the case.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Can you tell me about how much?</p> <p><b>Ms West</b>—No I cannot tell you that right now, I am sorry. I do not have those numbers.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Are you able to tell me if you take it on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms West</b>—Yes we should be able to do that.</p>	105 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
9	1.1: PAD	Siewert	Caring for our Country – Indigenous Protected Area network	<p>The Indigenous Protected Area network with its partner program the Working on Country program employs indigenous rangers and is now a key element of Australia's overall approach to biodiversity management, particularly in Northern and Central Australia but also in the Southern states.</p> <p>1. What is the future plan for funding of the Indigenous Protected Area network?</p> <p>2. What assessment process will be used to decide the future funding?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
10	1.2: AWD	Siewert	Orchids at Jandakot Airport	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Thank you. I would like to go to an answer that you gave me—and I am sorry to jump around but there are a couple of issues that I want to cover—in response to my questions on notice about the Jandakot airport last estimates. I thank you for the answer; it was very useful for me. I have got a couple of follow-up questions. The comment was made that none of the translocated plants set seed. Does it concern you that they continue to transplant orchids and that some of them have survived and set flowers but none have set seed? Is that normal? Have you looked into it?</p> <p><b>Ms Middleton</b>—In relation to the translocation that is currently occurring on Jandakot airport, it is all being managed by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority</p>	124 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11

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				<p>in Western Australia. They are the leading experts in terms of the two orchid varieties on Jandakot and their latest reports to us are that they are actually encouraged by how well the plants that they have currently translocated are progressing.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—These are also the ones from 2004 that have been translocated and have flowered but have not set seed. Has any work been done or have you required any work to look at why they did not set seed and what potential that has for the future?</p> <p><b>Ms Middleton</b>—I am not a technical expert on orchids but I can take that on notice and check with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. ...</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—If you could take on notice and provide me with any further information on that, it would be really appreciated. ...</p>			
11	1.2: AWD	Colbeck	Strategic assessment of the Midlands Water Scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the schedule for the assessment of the Midlands Irrigation Schemes?</li> <li>2. What meetings are planned for the assessment, if any? Where? With who?</li> <li>3. How much will the assessment cost?</li> <li>4. What has been the impact of the listing of the Tasmanian native grasslands on the irrigation development?</li> <li>5. What is the current status of this assessment?</li> <li>6. When will the proponents be given final sign-off (if any!)?</li> <li>7. How many submissions were made to the assessment process?</li> <li>8. Who have the assessors met with as part of the assessment process? Where? When? Who?</li> <li>9. What were the findings with respect to the threats to any species identified by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust?</li> <li>10. What measures, if any, will the proponents need to undertake as a result of the assessment – over and above what was already proposed?</li> <li>11. What has been the cost of the assessment?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
12	1.2: AWD	Siewert	Monsoon Vine Thicket	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the Department be acting on the Threatened Species Scientific Committee recommendation that Monsoon Vine Thicket be included on the vulnerable category list under the EPBC Act? If yes, what is the timeframe?</li> <li>2. Is the Department aware that Monsoon Vine Thickets are threatened by the proposed gas development at James Price Point?</li> <li>3. Does the Department believe that more work needs to be done identifying and listing threatened species in the Kimberley?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
13	1.2: AWD	Colbeck	Bumble Bees	At the last Estimates I asked about the importation of Bumblebees into Tasmania following representations to me from the the horticulture sector. Following those Estimates, Marcus Brandsema, a tomato greenhouse operator at Turners Beach in North West Tasmania met with Minister Garrett. Minister Garrett mentioned to Mr Brandsema that a possible way forward would be to “challenge” the Act and said that	Written Question	14/02/11 + 1 att't	03/03/11

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				<p>a brief would be forwarded from his office to Mr Brandsema in a time-frame of around 4 weeks. On 13 August Mr Brandsema emailed the Minister – following numerous other emails and phone calls to the Minister's office – and said he had still not received the promised brief.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did the Dept provide advice to the Minister on this matter? Was an official present at the meeting in late May (part of the community cabinet process)?</li> <li>2. Is the Dept still preparing advice?</li> <li>3. Is there a reason why bumblebees could not be brought into Tasmania when they are already present and have been so for at least 15 years?</li> </ol>			
14	1.2: AWD	Colbeck	Strategic assessment of the Midlands region	<p>On 17 September, Senator Stephens representing the Minister said the Government would undertake – alongside the Tas Govt – a strategic assessment of the Midlands region. It appears this has simply been rolled into the assessment undertaken for the irrigation schemes (rather than a separate special assessment related to the grasslands). The Government said it would publicly release "a report on the impacts and proposed management arrangements" (for the grasslands) within 6 months of commencement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you confirm whether or not you have met this guarantee to the Senate?</li> <li>2. How many landholders have been identified as having grasslands on their holdings?</li> <li>3. What impact has the grasslands' listing had on farm practices?</li> <li>4. The Government also promised to make departmental officers available to carry out site visits to provide information on the impact of the grasslands listing. Can you confirm this has occurred?</li> <li>5. How many site visits have occurred? When?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
15	1.2: AWD	Siewert	Fitzgerald River National Park coastal walk trail	<p>Re the proposed coastal walk trail through Fitzgerald River National Park:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the Department aware of the coastal walk trail through the Fitzgerald River National Park? If yes, has the Department got concerns about the potential to spread dieback in the Park?</li> <li>2. Has the Department been approached to help fund the walk trail?</li> <li>3. What is the Federal Government's approach to funding infrastructure in Fitzgerald National Park?</li> <li>4. Does the Department believe the proposal should be assessed under the EPBC Act?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
16	1.2: MD	Siewert	Seasonal fishing bans in WA	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>— ... I want to know whether you have looked at, and discussed with the department of fisheries in Western Australia, the issue of the seasonal bans and the declining fish stocks in the areas where the seasonal bans have been put in place. Have you had any discussions with the department about that?</p> <p><b>Mr Oxley</b>—I need to confer with one of my staff for a minute. There may have been</p>	118 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11

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				<p>some discussion but I think it would be easier on this occasion if you were to give us an indication more clearly on notice and we will respond.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—As you will be aware there are some seasonal bans coming into effect in WA and that is having quite a significant impact, as we understand it, on some of the local tackle shops and things, and the discussion is now centring around spatial bans rather than seasonal bans. I am wondering whether you have been having any discussions with the department or are you learning from the process that is being undertaken there at the moment.</p> <p><b>Mr Oxley</b>—I will take that on notice. I cannot give you the nitty gritty of what discussions our liaison officer in Western Australia may have had with WA fisheries department officials.</p>			
17	1.2: MD	Macdonald	East Marine Bioregional Plan consultation meetings	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I want to speak to Mr Oxley again about the marine regional plan and I would like to go back to the natural resource management groups and Caring for our Country. Mr Oxley, in answer to a question on notice from the last estimates, regarding the East Marine Bioregional Plan, you indicated that it followed a similar model to the others, which involved a broad stakeholder audience, 'but without multi-sectoral information sessions partly due to the geographic spread and requirements of interest groups in the region.' Without asking you to go to too much effort, is it possible for you to give me a list of all the meetings that you had in relation to the East Marine Bioregional Plan?</p> <p><b>Mr Oxley</b>—Yes, it is possible, but I think we might check previous answers to questions, because I thought we had given at that time quite a comprehensive list of all the parties that we have met with.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—You did. Have there been no—</p> <p><b>Mr Oxley</b>—There may have been a period of time between when we answered that question and the commencement of the caretaker period. I am happy for us to provide further details.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Did the meetings stop during the caretaker period?</p> <p><b>Mr Oxley</b>—Yes, we stopped doing the public consultation—actually, I should not say they stopped; they were actually at their natural end at that point in time.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Please check for me that you have not previously given me information on the east regional plan. You certainly have given details for the northern plan; would you give me a list of those that you have not already told me about?</p> <p><b>Mr Oxley</b>—Yes, we will.</p>	126 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
18	1.2: MD	Colbeck	Marine bioregions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you give me an outline of where each of the bioregions are?</li> <li>2. It was anticipated the South West would be the first bioregion to have draft areas published. Will this still be the case?</li> <li>3. What communications are planned following the release of each of the draft</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

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				<p>plans?</p> <p>4. Is there any scientific data that is not being released to stakeholders?</p> <p>5. What is the current status of the displacement policy?</p> <p>6. Has the displacement stakeholder group been added to? What is the reason for this?</p> <p>7. What meetings have been held with the group?</p> <p>8. What meetings are planned?</p> <p>9. When will the policy be finalised and released? Will a draft be released first for stakeholder input?</p> <p>10. What advice has been provided to the Minister about the release of the displacement policy? When?</p> <p>11. Does the displacement policy need to be approved by Cabinet or a sub-committee of the Cabinet?</p>			
19	1.2: MD	Siewert	Southwest Bioregion mapping and budgetary implications	<p>1. Has the department prepared a cost estimate for the bioregional marine plan? In doing so have you taken into account studies that show that large no-take reserves are cheaper to manage than more complex zoning of marine parks (“Marine protected area management costs: an analysis of options for the Coral Sea,” 2009, Natalie C. Ban, Vanessa Adams, and Robert L. Pressey, ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies James Cook University)?</p> <p>2. Is the Department aware of the study by Allen Consulting Group – “The economics of marine protected areas: Application of principles to Australia’s South West Marine Region”? Has the methodology and findings recommended in this report been taken into consideration by the department in preparing their costs estimate?</p> <p>3. Have the benefits such as a boost to ecotourism in the SW to \$55m per year and spill over benefits to the fishing and rock lobster industry of \$2.4m per year been considered in these estimates of costs?</p> <p>4. In determining the size and location of marine sanctuaries in Marine Bioregional Plans, how have the potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change and ocean acidification been taken into account?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
20	1.2: MD	Siewert	Declining fish stocks	<p>1. In considering impacts on recreational fishers, is the Department aware of recent studies that show very low impacts on their activities following the establishment of scientific levels of marine protection at the Great Barrier Reef and Ningaloo Reef? For example work cited in “Adaptive management of the Great Barrier Reef: a globally significant demonstration of the benefits of a network of marine reserves, 2010, Laurence J. McCook et al” showing that five years after establishing 33% Green Zones on the Great Barrier Reef boat sales had continued to increase and 73% of surveyed recreational fishers said fishing had not been affected or had improved?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11



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				<p>2. Has the Department approached the Western Australian Fisheries Department to discuss how new commonwealth marine sanctuaries might help with protecting breeding areas for declining demersal fish stocks in Western Australia?</p> <p>3. Is the Department aware of Fisheries Occasional Publication No 65, A Review of Management Arrangements for the Recreational Fishery for Demersal Scalefish in the West Coast Bioregion, Peter Neville, April 2009, that recommends sanctuaries are necessary for ongoing sustainable management of this fishery?</p>			
21	1.2: MD	Siewert	Scientific research and bioregion policy	<p>1. Is the Department aware that the position paper on marine protected areas of the Australian Marine Sciences Association, Australia's peak marine science organisation, states that "A figure of 10% under no-take protection would slow but not prevent loss of biodiversity: the current no-take level in the GBRMP of 33% is more likely to achieve substantial and sustained biodiversity benefits."? Given that the Department's stated goal of the National Reserve System of Marine Protected Areas is "to establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine reserves to contribute to the long-term conservation of marine ecosystems and to protect marine biological diversity at all levels", how is leading expert scientific opinion such as that from AMSA being taken into account in Marine Bioregional Plans so that Government can prevent further biodiversity loss?</p> <p>2. Considering the latest advances in best practice marine science is the Department aware, in particular, of the following recent publications:</p> <p>a. "Report on the Scientific Basis for and the Role of Marine Sanctuaries in Marine Planning, 2008, Simon Woodley, Professor Neil Loneragan and Dr Russ Babcock," recommending that a well designed network of large marine sanctuaries in WA would protect biodiversity, and may benefit fisheries.</p> <p>b. "Adaptive management of the Great Barrier Reef: a globally significant demonstration of the benefits of a network of marine reserves, 2010, Laurence J. McCook et al," a long term study showing that reef fish size and abundance had doubled in marine sanctuaries on the Great Barrier Reef, and that sanctuaries had higher numbers of migratory protected species like turtles and sharks.</p> <p>c. "Scientific Principles for Design of Marine Protected Areas in Australia: A Guidance Statement, 2009, University of Queensland." This document outlines principles for the design of marine protected areas in Australia and was signed by 50 of Australia's leading marine scientists. It recommends that a minimum of 20-30% of all of the key habitats in our oceans needed protection in marine sanctuaries, with higher levels of protection for unique or rare ecosystems, to ensure recovery of and provide long term protection for, Australia's fish stocks and marine life.</p> <p>d. "Larval dispersal connects fish populations in a network of marine protected areas, January 2009, ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and James Cook University," a paper that found fish larvae disperse &amp; settle between</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

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				sanctuaries, proving that a network of marine sanctuaries can provide protection for species over large distances.			
22	1.2: MD	Siewert	Marine park creation by state governments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the Department aware that the Western Australian Government is creating new marine parks in the Kimberley and that the South Australian Government has set aside 44% of state waters as marine protected areas?</li> <li>2. If yes, what efforts are being undertaken by the Department in these states to maximise contiguity of Commonwealth and State parks?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
23	1.2: MD	Birmingham	Special Envoy for Whale Conservation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please summarise all final costs related to the appointment of the Special Envoy for Whale Conservation, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Daily and total fees paid, detailing the days for which fees were paid, and costs of support staff;</li> <li>b. Total costs of travel, including a list of all international or interstate travel itemised by trip, detailing the cost of each trip, cities or other destinations visited, the purpose of the travel and any specific outcomes achieved, and costs of any accompanying Commonwealth Government staff; and</li> <li>c. All other costs.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Please detail specific outcomes achieved through the Special Envoy's appointment.</li> <li>3. Who is filling the void created by the abolition of the Special Envoy's position?</li> <li>4. Has Mr Hollway been engaged by the Commonwealth to undertake any work since the conclusion of his contract as Special Envoy for Whale Conservation? If so, please detail the nature of any engagement and associated costs.</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11 + 1 att't	03/03/11
24	1.2: MD	Siewert	Offshore oil exploration	<p>This year the Government took the decision to make available 31 new offshore oil exploration leases in Commonwealth waters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which of these are located over areas designated for further assessment as potential marine protected areas as part of the bioregional marine planning process?</li> <li>2. Do any of these leases overlap with areas that the Department has identified as draft marine protected areas, and in particular as draft marine sanctuaries?</li> <li>3. How has the process to finalise the draft boundaries of marine protected areas taken into account the release of these new leases and the leases due to be made available in 2011?</li> <li>4. What correspondence has occurred between the Department of Resources and the Department regarding these leases?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
25	4: MDBA	Xenophon	Water available to offset reductions in allocations	<p><b>Mr McLeod</b>—The figures for volumes of water that are available to offset the reductions that are identified in the guide are just that. These offsets will not necessarily change the range of 3,000 or 4,000; they merely offset the degree to which that has been already provided for through these programs. The relative offsetting will constantly be updated based on the best available information.</p>	25 (19/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11

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				<p><b>Senator XENOPHON</b>—Will it make a difference to particular valleys?  <b>Mr McLeod</b>—Ultimately the extent to which the purchases or investments might provide for offsetting may mean that in some valleys the level of offsetting might reduce to zero very quickly. Within the guide, in the appendix, we already have a number of valleys where the proposed level of reduction has already been bridged in full.  <b>Senator XENOPHON</b>—Mr Freeman, perhaps the authority could take on notice that, in so far as once updated information is obtained from the state water authorities and state governments, you could provide an update as to whether that impacts on a valley by valley basis.  <b>Mr Freeman</b>—Yes, I can. It is important to reinforce Mr McLeod's point that that will clarify the residual gap. It will not change the total volume.  <b>Senator XENOPHON</b>—It will not make a difference on a valley by valley basis?  <b>Mr Freeman</b>—It will highlight where programs have met the reduction that is required, and therefore there is no residual impact on entitlement holders, and it will highlight where action is required, normally in the area of water purchase, in order to ensure that there is no impact. Doing that updated work will give the Commonwealth a clear indication of where they should be focusing their purchase or their water efficiency programs.  <b>Senator XENOPHON</b>—If you could update the committee, that would be very useful.  <b>Mr Freeman</b>—Yes.</p>			
26	1.2: IMD	Macdonald	NERP - Reef and Rainforest Research Centre	<p><b>[EC 113]</b>  <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I think Mr Sullivan might be able to answer my first questions on the National Environmental Research program. I see that \$1.808 million for administrative arrangements for transition from MTSRF to NER was to be paid on 1 July. Was it paid? ...  <b>Mr Richardson</b>—No, that money has not all been paid. We have paid the invoices that we have now received from the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, which administers that program on behalf of the department. ...  <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—So how much has been paid?  <b>Mr Richardson</b>—I am sorry, Senator, we will have to take on notice the exact amount.  <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Most of the \$1.8 million, or some of it, or half of it?  ...  <b>Mr Richardson</b>—The research contract was front-end loaded, so there was a significant payment upfront, but I cannot tell you exactly how much.  <b>[EC 115]</b>  <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—This research work in reef and rainforest has been</p>	113 and 115 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				going for—what is it: three, six years, Mr Sullivan? They have employed scientists in Far North Queensland, where the reefs and rainforests are. Who has been paying them since 1 July? ... <b>Mr Grimes</b> —It is possible that the institute may have had cash reserves that has allowed it to fund its way through this period, but we will take that on notice and see what information we can provide for you.			
27	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Consultancy on social media	<b>Senator BIRMINGHAM</b> —The legal costs. The Sydney market research company to report on using social media such as Twitter and Facebook to the tune of \$289,053—is that an accurate cost and an accurate description or is there more to that consultancy than meets the eye? <b>Mr Nicholas</b> —I would have to take that one on notice. Those figures do not match the ones that we have. That could be an estimate of development of social media pages and a call centre that we have established to manage the contact from the community in relation to the release of the guide. The description is probably something that I would need to look at.	28 (19/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
28	4: MDBA	Nash	Socio-economic impact work	<b>Senator NASH</b> —I will move on from that. I think we have made the point there. I will be very quick then. Pages 39 to 41 contain all of the socio-economic impact work that has been done to date. How much has been spent on that? If you do not have a really quick answer take it on notice for me, if you would not mind. <b>Dr McLeod</b> —There was quite an extensive range of additional work that has been undertaken. I believe that somewhere in the region of \$2.9 million has been spent on social and economic work in the course of this past— <b>Senator NASH</b> —If you could come back to the committee with the exact figure—take the question on notice—that would be great. Who has been appointed to undertake the new study? <b>Mr Freeman</b> —No-one has been appointed at this stage. We have a panel. The panel is extensive. I believe there are 67 organisations on that panel. The panel have been asked for responses and a determination will be made at the end of next week. <b>Senator NASH</b> —Can you provide the panel members to the committee? <b>Mr Freeman</b> —Yes. ... <b>Senator NASH</b> —Can you provide to the committee what your criteria will be for determining who is going to be the appropriate group to do this new study—the work that should have been done before? <b>Mr Freeman</b> —We can provide you with the criteria for our decision; yes. ... <b>Senator NASH</b> —Thank you. Can you take this on notice: with regard to the new study, could the committee be provided with the bid documentation—tender documents and the bid documentation—that goes with that. <b>Mr Freeman</b> —Yes.	32 and 33 (19/10/10)	14/02/11 + 1 att't	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
29	4: MDBA	Nash	Commonwealth water – state recovery programs	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I will put a number of questions on notice, Chair, and I do know that we need to move to the NWC. I want to ask this. In the guide it says that as at 30 June 2010 the Australian government water buyback and state water recovery programs had secured some 705 gigalitres of surface water in the basin. What are the state recovery programs? How much have they delivered? In terms of the government buyback, how much of that 705 is entitlement purchased by the Commonwealth and how much allocation of real water actually goes against the total of the entitlement purchased by the Commonwealth so far? ...</p> <p><b>Ms Harwood</b>—The state recovery programs are things like RiverBank in New South Wales. The authority has the information on those, which is how much the state run recovery programs have recovered to date.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—So if you could take on notice though to provide some more detail as quickly as you can. ...</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—If I could also put this on notice: does the RiverBank that you were referring to go to the 3,000- or 4,000-gigalitre bracket that the authority is talking about?</p>	40-41 (19/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
30	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Environmental water and SRWUIP	The Guide to the Basin Plan reports that 705GL of water has been bought back or saved so far (p. 152). How much of this water has been delivered by the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program? Can you please provide a breakdown between water purchases and individual state water recovery programs that add up to this estimate?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
31	4: MDBA	Joyce	Release of the Guide to the Basin Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can you please inform the Committee the parties that were briefed prior to the release of the Guide to the Basin Plan? When were those briefings? In particular, which State Governments were briefed on its contents?</li> <li>The MDBA has been reported as saying that the Guide was released at 4pm on a Friday afternoon to avoid “market impacts”. Were participants in briefings on the Basin Plan, other than those attending the lockup on Friday October 8, required to sign confidentiality agreements on the contents of those briefings? If not, why not? If the MDBA was concerned about the market impacts of the information why did it not take such protections?</li> <li>Is the MDBA undertaking any investigations into the leaking of the contents of elements of the Guide to the Draft Basin Plan, which appeared in the media on Thursday, October 7?</li> <li>Who made the decision to separate the lockup locations for the media, stakeholders and politicians? Why were these groups separated? Did the MDBA consult with the Minister about these arrangements?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
32	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Impact of flood events on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do increased flood events in Basin wetlands have an impact on the breeding cycle of European carp? If so, what is the impact?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			European carp	<p>2. Is the Authority monitoring any impact from increased flooding this year?</p> <p>3. Has the Authority considered any possible impact as a result of the proposals under the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan?</p>			
33	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Register of water entitlements	<p>1. Does the Commonwealth have a full register of water entitlements held, by any entity, for non-irrigation purposes and non-productive purposes?</p> <p>2. Please provide detail of what data the Commonwealth does have of environmental water holdings by both Government and non-Government entities.</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
34	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Changes to the Water Act 2007	<p>1. Has the Authority canvassed the need for changes to the Water Act 2007 at any time? If so, please detail when such discussions were had, involving whom, and what conclusions were made.</p> <p>2. Has the Authority ever requested the Department or Minister consider changes to the Water Act 2007? If so, when and what changes were requested?</p> <p>3. Has the Authority ever been asked to comment on the need for any changes to the Water Act 2007 by either the Department or the Minister? If so, when?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
35	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Basin Plan – involvement of states	<p>1. Have the States been provided with a draft of the Draft Basin Plan?</p> <p>2. What level of information has been provided to the States during the drafting of the Plan, proposed, draft or otherwise? In general terms, what information have the States asked to provide to assist the Authority in its drafting?</p> <p>3. What level of involvement have the States had in the draft Basin Plan?</p> <p>4. Why did the Authority limit the involvement and assistance of the States at a public sector level?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
36	4: MDBA	Nash	MDBA calculations – water savings	<p>1. How much water has the government's saving and infrastructure investment program delivered since it commenced and have these savings been accounted for in the MDBA's calculations? If not, why not?</p> <p>2. Have water savings delivered through a host of programs including the Living Murray and Water for Rivers been accounted for in the MDBA's calculations? If not, why not?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
37	4: MDBA	Joyce	Basin Plan – science	<p>1. I refer the Authority to the comments of Mike Taylor, chairman of the MDBA, that were reported by AAP on October 15 that the science "still needs to be tested". In what ways does the science needs to be tested?</p> <p>a. What steps have the MDBA taken thus far to "test the science"?</p> <p>b. How is this view consistent with the view expressed in the Guide that the findings are based on the best available science?</p> <p>2. Why is the Government/Murray-Darling Basin Authority continuing to rely on information that it acknowledges is incorrect, in developing the Basin Plan? In particular why has not the Sustainable Rivers Audit been updated to correctly reflect the Hydrology Index for Site 5 (Tycannah Ck at Horseshoe Lagoon) in the Gwydir Valley?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
38	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Employment of Sam Leone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In what capacity has Sam Leone been employed by the Authority?</li> <li>Is Mr Leone still employed by the Authority? If not, please outline the circumstances surrounding the termination of employment, including whether any notice period was required and/or given?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
39	4: MDBA	Birmingham	MDBA consultancies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please detail the value of all consultancy services engaged by the Authority, specifying details for each consultancy valued above \$50,000 outlining the total cost, consultants engaged and services provided.</li> <li>With reference to the story in The Canberra Times of 19 October 2010 regarding consultancy costs, and the Authority's indication it doesn't know where the \$60 million comes from, might such a figure be reached if research funds for Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) are included? If they should not be included, why should they not be included?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11 + 1 att't	03/03/11
40	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Research re preparation of the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please provide a breakdown of research funding related to preparation of the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan, by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental research</li> <li>Surveys and research on the social and economic impacts?</li> </ol> </li> <li>Which consultants were engaged to undertake key research, in particular all consultants engaged to undertake economic, social or socioeconomic impact research? In each case, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dates each research study or survey was commissioned</li> <li>The written consultant's briefs together with any verbal instructions; and</li> <li>Please provide the survey questions and the instructions regarding the profile of people to be surveyed.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11 + att'ts	03/03/11
41	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Considerations in developing the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was any consideration given, during development of the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan, to planned or potential flows into the Coorong from the South Australian Government's Upper South East Dryland Salinity and Flood Management Program?</li> <li>Were all so called 'sleeper licences' considered in the development of the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan? If so, how have they been considered? Are they all assumed to be activated?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
42	4: MDBA	Joyce	Menindee Lakes and Broken Hill water supply	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was the MDBA consulted before the Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the New South Wales Government on the redesign of the Menindee Lakes?</li> <li>In the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan, has the MDBA assessed the urban water needs of Broken Hill? If so, how much are they, and how will they be met under the MDBA's Guide?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
43	4: MDBA	Joyce	Groundwater and surfacewater	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the MDBA's views on the connectivity of groundwater and surfacewater?</li> <li>How will the limits on groundwater use be enforced?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
44	4: MDBA	Joyce	Basin Plan – proposed and final	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When does the MDBA intend to release the proposed Basin Plan? Will the subsequent consultation period only go for statutory requirement of “at least 16 weeks” or will it go for longer?</li> <li>When does the MDBA expect to deliver the final Basin Plan to the Government?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
45	4: MDBA	Nash	Environmental water management plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where is the MDBA’s environmental water management plan that outlines: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How water taken from the communities will be used?</li> <li>What outcomes it will deliver for the environment?</li> </ol> </li> <li>Does the environmental water management plan include the implementation of best practice ways of delivering water?</li> <li>Does the environment water management plan allow for infrastructure solutions to bring about win/win results for the environment and community?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
46	4: MDBA	Joyce	Sustainable Diversion Limits	Can the MDBA please explain exactly what water will contribute towards achieving the SDLs? Will any water recovery programs outside the Government’s Water for the Future programs, contribute to the cuts?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
47	4: MDBA	Nash	Guide to the proposed Basin Plan – risk allocations	Can you explain the risk allocation provisions outlined on Section 11.2 the Guide?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
48	4: MDBA	Joyce	MDBA briefings	Could you please provide the Committee with a list of the briefings the MDBA has given to the Minister for Water or his / her staff, and the Prime Minister, or his / her staff, in the last 3 months?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
49	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Availability of engineering solutions	Did the Authority undertake research as to the availability of engineering solutions to reduce the permanent entitlements required to be bought on the market? If so, who was commissioned to undertake the research, what was their brief and what was the cost?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
50	4: MDBA	Joyce	Consultation on the Guide to the Basin Plan	Do stakeholders have the ability to make formal submissions to the MDBA on the Guide to the Basin Plan? What happens to the written feedback that people provide to the Authority? How does the MDBA handle the phone calls that are made to it? Are these logged and recorded?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
51	4: MDBA	Birmingham	MDB surfacewater use	For each decade between 1950 and 2010, and for the total period, please outline, by State or Territory and expressed both in volume and percentage terms, the change in level of Murray-Darling Basin surface water use.	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
52	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Water Act 2007 – legal advice	Has the Authority ever sought legal advice regarding its obligations under the Water Act 2007 and/or seeking specific advice interpreting sections of the Water Act 2007? If so, when was such advice sought and in regard to which sections? Please provide copies of any such advice given.	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
53	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Water savings	I refer to the statement in the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan that “...	Written	14/02/11	03/03/11



QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			through infrastructure improvement	Commonwealth and state water purchases and savings under the infrastructure improvement program, will recover around 2,000 GL (long-term Cap equivalent) for the environment.” Please provide a breakdown of estimates used to arrive at this figure.	Question		
54	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Reduction of diversion limits – Murray Mouth	In what percentage of years would the Authority expect the Murray Mouth to be open should the additional water provided to the environment under the Basin Plan entail: a. A 1500 Gigalitres per year (GL/y) reduction on current diversion limits b. A 1600 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits c. A 1700 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits d. A 1800 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits e. A 1900 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits f. A 2000 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits g. A 2100 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits h. A 2200 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits i. A 2300 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits j. A 2400 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits k. A 2500 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits l. A 2600 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits m. A 2700 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits n. A 2800 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits o. A 2900 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits p. A 4500 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits q. A 5000 GL/y reduction on current diversion limits	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
55	4: MDBA	Joyce	Cost of socio-economic research	On pp. 39-41 of the Guide, the MDBA lists the socioeconomic research it has relied on. Can the MDBA provide the Committee with the value of each of the contracts it has with these organisations, when those contracts were signed and the tendering arrangements put in place to source this research?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
56	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Deadlines for Basin Plan	What deadlines, in developing and implementing the Basin Plan, does the Authority understand it has to meet under: 1. The Water Act 2007 2. The July 2008 Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform; and 3. Government policy	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
57	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Guide scenarios – effect on key environmental assets	What measurable improvements does the Authority expect, under each of the three scenarios outlined in the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan, for each of the 18 key environmental assets identified by the Authority?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
58	4: MDBA	Birmingham	Reduction of	What would the Authority expect the economic impact on the gross value of irrigated	Written	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			diversion limits – economic impact	agricultural production to be of reductions in current diversion limits of: a. 1500 GL/y b. 2000 GL/y c. 2500 GL/y d. 4500 GL/y e. 5000 GL/y	Question		
59	4: NWC	Siewert	Kimberley groundwater projects	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I have got questions that you may need to take on notice. One question that I specifically want to start with is this. It is in terms of the work you are doing on groundwater and the projects that you are doing. Are there any being done in the Kimberley, particularly the West Kimberley?</p> <p><b>Mr Cameron</b>—I would have to take that question on notice. We are doing a number of projects that have national relevance. For example, we have a project underway looking at the cumulative impacts of mining on groundwater, which obviously has relevance in areas with significant mining activities, so that would have some implications for the East Kimberley. I cannot answer as to whether we have specific projects that are focused on that region alone.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Could you take on notice the question about the West Kimberley. With regard to the projects on the impacts of mining, you mentioned East Kimberley but are they looking at the West Kimberley as well?</p> <p><b>Mr Cameron</b>—That is a project which is looking at better ways for water planners to manage and model the potential impacts of multiple mines in one area. In that sense it is a project with national application. We are undertaking some trials of the models which are developed in particular regions of the country, including one in Western Australia, but the project is intended to provide messages and information that will be useful for the country as a whole.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—So it would not be providing recommendations about specific areas?</p> <p><b>Mr Cameron</b>—No.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—When is that one due to be completed?</p> <p><b>Mr Cameron</b>—That project is expected to be completed early next year.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Just so I understand: there is no further work being done in the Kimberley, or do you have to take it on notice to check?</p> <p><b>Mr Cameron</b>—I will have to take that on notice to check.</p>	41 (19/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
60	4: NWC	Joyce	Groundwater and surfacewater	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the NWC's work on groundwater involve assessing the connectivity between groundwater and surfacewater? If so, what does your work show? What does your work show with particular reference to the Murray-Darling Basin?</li> <li>What is the level of consistency in groundwater standards and groundwater regulations between the States?</li> <li>Do any inconsistencies pose difficulties for the national management of</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11 + 1 att't	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>groundwater resources?</p> <p>4. Are the MDBA estimates in the Guide to the Basin Plan consistent with the findings in the NWC's "Surface and/or groundwater interception activities: initial estimates report"? Does the MDBA rely on sources that you do not or that are more up to date than yours?</p> <p>5. The NWC's report is titled "initial estimates" how much more work do we need to do to come up with final estimates?</p>			
61	4: NWC	Joyce	Mining and water issues	How have governments responded to your report " <i>Water issues in jurisdictional planning for mining</i> "? What specific actions are they taking? Is the NWC doing anymore work in this area?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
62	4.1: WED	Nash	Commonwealth water - infrastructure projects	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I will put a number of questions on notice, Chair, and I do know that we need to move to the NWC. I want to ask this. In the guide it says that as at 30 June 2010 the Australian government water buyback and state water recovery programs had secured some 705 gigalitres of surface water in the basin. What are the state recovery programs? How much have they delivered? In terms of the government buyback, how much of that 705 is entitlement purchased by the Commonwealth and how much allocation of real water actually goes against the total of the entitlement purchased by the Commonwealth so far? ...</p> <p><b>Dr Horne</b>—Almost all of the Commonwealth water held at the moment is entitlement water. In fact, it is entitlement water from buybacks. A very small amount of it is water that is derived from infrastructure projects.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Okay, so can you take on notice for me exactly how much water there is from the infrastructure programs?</p> <p><b>Dr Horne</b>—Yes, we can do that.</p>	40-41 (19/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
63	4.1: WED	Xenophon	Private Irrigation Infrastructure Program for South Australia	<p>1. Can the Department confirm how much of the PIIP-SA program has been taken up? How many projects did this cover?</p> <p>2. The Department would be aware of an application from a date farmer in South Australia at Gurra Downs, whose application was rejected as it did not rate high enough in the merit criteria.</p> <p>a. Given that this is a project aimed at establishing a new, drought resistant crop with a large international market, why was it considered to be without merit?</p> <p>b. And, given that the application was for the relatively small amount of \$1 million and the fund remains basically untouched, why will the Department not consider this project?</p> <p>3. Given that so few projects were approved and only a small part of the fund has been used, will the Department be reassessing applications?</p> <p>4. This project has received large amounts of funding and other support from Government departments and agencies, including DAFF. Why did the Department</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				not take this into account? 5. If this was taken into account, why did the Department consider this widely supported project to be without merit?			
64	4.1: WED	Xenophon	Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program - SA projects	1. Can the Department provide figures regarding the take up of the \$5.8 billion fund for water efficiency projects? 2. How much of this has been taken up in South Australia? 3. How many South Australian applications for funding were received by the Department? 4. How many were approved, and what was the value of the projects?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
65	4.1: WED	Joyce	Menindee Lakes MoU with NSW Government	1. Did the Government consult with the MDBA or the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder before the MoU was signed? 2. Did the Department or the Government consult with the South Australian Government before signing this MoU? 3. What steps is the Government taking to ensure that the MoU does not jeopardise the ability to supply South Australia with minimum daily flows? 4. Did the Department or the Government consult with the Victorian Government before signing this Memorandum of Understanding? 5. Will the eventual implementation of the agreement require a change to the water sharing arrangements between the Basin states? If so, why aren't representatives from Victoria and South Australia on the Joint Standing Committee overseeing the agreement? 6. Did the Department or the Government consult with irrigators over the Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Government? 7. What steps is the Government taking to ensure that irrigation entitlements are not diluted as a result of this agreement? 8. The MoU identifies \$300 million to be spent on regional urban water projects in New South Wales. What projects have been allocated funds from these amounts? 9. How will other projects be selected for funding? Will the New South Wales Government have the final say over which projects are funded?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
66	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Sunraysia Modernisation Project	1. Has the Commonwealth committed at any stage to the Sunraysia Modernisation Project? If so, please detail when and what commitment was made. 2. What progress has been made on this commitment? 3. Has due diligence been undertaken and what were the findings of such assessments?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
67	4.1: WED	Joyce	Restoring the Balance program	1. How much has been expended under the Restoring the Balance program? 2. How much water has been recovered under the Restoring the Balance program? What has been the average price paid for a ML of water under the buyback so far?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
68	4.1: WED	Joyce	Menindee Lakes	1. I refer the Department to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between	Written	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			and Broken Hill water supply	<p>the Australian Government and the New South Wales Government in regards to Menindee Lakes. This agreement aims to save 200 GL of water by changing the operation of the Menindee Storage Lakes. What will be the operational changes at Menindee Lakes? Will the Government consider changing the existing 640/480 transfer arrangements which exist at Menindee?</p> <p>2. The Darling River Water Saving Project analysed six schemes, which scheme does the MoU adopt or come to closest to?</p> <p>3. That report found that shutting down Menindee and Cawndilla would “result in unacceptable environment, social and heritage impacts” (p. 5). Why has the Government then decided to follow an option which shuts these two Lakes down?</p> <p>4. The MoU proposes that Broken Hill be supplied with water from an aquifer. Has the Government tested this aquifer for toxic substances, such as arsenic?</p> <p>5. Does the Department have any knowledge on from where does the aquifer recharge?</p>	Question		
69	4.1: WED	Joyce	Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program – timing and projects	<p>1. In a press release issued by Chris Bowen, Lindsay Tanner and Wayne Swan on 12 August, they stated with respect to Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure programs that “there are delays in the roll out of certain projects in some States. To meet this new timetable the funding profile for these projects will be adjusted so that \$200 million of funding will be moved from 2012-13 and 2013-14 to 2014-15 and 2015-16.” What projects will be deferred and why has another \$200 million of funding under this program been deferred when it is already running well behind schedule?</p> <p>2. Can the Department please provide the Committee with a list of projects under the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program, the amount of funding allocated to individual programs, and the amount of money that has been expended under each individual program?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
70	4.1: WED	Birmingham	On-farm infrastructure projects	<p>1. Please detail the number and value of all applications received under each round of Commonwealth on-farm infrastructure project programs undertaken during 2009/10.</p> <p>2. How many of these applications have been approved?</p> <p>3. To what value and what volume of environmental water is expected to be attained as a result of them?</p> <p>4. What money has remained unallocated as a result of each of these applications rounds?</p> <p>5. Has the Department received representations regarding the treatment of grants provided under any of its on-farm infrastructure programs by the Australian Taxation Office? If so, what issues have been identified and what action has been taken to address those issues?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
71	4.1: WED	Joyce	Menindee Lakes MoU - regional urban water projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The MoU identifies \$300 million to be spent on regional urban water projects in New South Wales. What projects have been allocated funds from these amounts?</li> <li>2. How will other projects be selected for funding? Will the New South Wales Government have the final say over which projects are funded?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
72	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Water Reform MoU with NSW Government - costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What options for infrastructure works and/or operational changes at Menindee Lakes are being considered under the July 2010 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New South Wales Government? What water savings are forecast under each of these options? What is the cost of each of these options?</li> <li>2. Does the Department envisage drawing funding required under Clause 24 of the MOU (subsidising Broken Hill water costs) from any existing program or funding source? If so, from where? Who will meet any increase in operational and maintenance costs beyond the specified five-year period?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
73	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Water Reform MoU with NSW Government – environmental water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will projects funded under Clause 25 of the MOU be required to make any environmental water savings? Will projects under Clause 25 of the MOU be required to be within the Murray-Darling Basin?</li> <li>2. Does the Commonwealth expect to increase the holdings of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder as a result of projects funded under Clause 25 of the MOU?</li> <li>3. How much water will be saved for environmental purposes from the funding committed towards Orange City Council's water security project under Clause 27 of the MOU?</li> <li>4. What additional holdings will the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder expect to attain as a result of the project funded under Clause 27 of the MOU?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
74	4.1: WED	Joyce	Water recovery program and the Basin Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the Department make any changes to its water recovery program following the release of the Guide to the Basin Plan? If so, what changes will or has it made? Has the Guide to the Basin Plan caused the Department to reevaluate / change where it buys water from?</li> <li>2. Does the Government's commitment to "bridge the gap" include purchasing all of this gap? In particular, does it cover the 3% reduction that the MDBA has assigned to climate change factors?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
75	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project	Has the Department been provided with any analysis of the outcomes from Stage One of the Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project? If so, what did such analysis indicate with regard to water savings and was the analysis independently audited or verified?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
76	4.1: WED	Joyce	Market mechanisms for recovering water	Has the Government formally responded to recommendation 6.1 of the Productivity Commission's report titled "Market Mechanisms for Recovering Water in the Murray-Darling Basin"? If so, what was the response and what action has been taken so far?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
77	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Commonwealth activity in the water market	I refer to the quote by Minister Burke on ABC TV's Lateline on 8 October 2010 that "... we (the government) are a significant part of the water market but we do not dominate its pricing. We are just one of the buyers there in the market." For each of the last three financial years and/or calendar years please outline the Commonwealth's understanding of, and detail by type: a. The value of all permanent water entitlements traded b. The volume of all permanent water entitlements traded c. The value of Commonwealth purchases d. The volume of Commonwealth purchases	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
78	4.1: WED	Birmingham	Recovery of water for the environment	In the event that policies designed to recover water for the environment, in line with the Basin Plan objectives, do not succeed in recovering sufficient water, how would the remaining water be recovered and under the proposals outlined in the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan, how would the cost of such recovery be shared ?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
79	4.1: WGD	Birmingham	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder	1. For each year of its existence, please summarise what volume of entitlement the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder has held. 2. What allocation has been provided against these entitlements and please detail how much of this allocation has been committed to environmental watering actions and in what locations? 3. What consultation was undertaken with local communities or others prior to decisions about these environmental watering actions being made?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
80	4.1: WGD	Xenophon	Waterproofing Eastern Adelaide project	1. Is the Department familiar with the Waterproofing Eastern Adelaide project, which brings seven councils in Adelaide's east together on a stormwater harvesting project worth approximately \$33 million? 2. During the election campaign, Prime Minister Gillard and Minister Wong promised this project \$10 million. Is this funding still available? 3. What conditions are there on the funding? 4. What level of Commitment has the South Australian Government made? How has this affected the Federal funding? 5. What other projects have received funding from the Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Program? 6. Why have these projects received funding while the Eastern Alliance project has not?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
81	4.1: WGD	Birmingham	Efficient delivery of environmental water	1. What research has been undertaken to date into means of more efficiently, than is currently the case and/or proposed, providing environmental water to key environmental assets? 2. Are there any examples of particular assets and more efficiently delivered water savings that have been identified to date?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
82	4.1: WGD	Birmingham	Chaffey Dam	1. What role if any did the Department play in the decision to expand the Chaffey	Written	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Dam?</p> <p>2. What role if any did the Authority play in the decision to expand the Chaffey Dam?</p> <p>3. What impact will this Dam have on downstream flows?</p> <p>4. What conditions were placed on this expansion? Is any federal funding involved in this expansion?</p> <p>5. Were any representations received by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Department or Minister in regard to this expansion?</p>	Question		
83	4.1: WGD	Joyce	Commonwealth environmental watering in the Gwydir Valley	Given that the Australian Government has already invested in excess of \$200 million in buying Gwydir Valley irrigation entitlement (and the Basin Plan calls on that amount to either double or triple), why did the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder not take its full allocation of supplementary water during recent supplementary access water events?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
84	4.1: WGD	Birmingham	Temporary trade of environmental water	Has the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder developed any policies or guidelines allowing it to engage in the temporary trade of allocation under its entitlements? If so, please provide a copy of such guidelines. If not, does it intend to produce such guidelines?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
85	4.1: WGD	Birmingham	Eastern Adelaide Stormwater Project	<p>I refer to the election promise committing federal support for the Eastern Adelaide Stormwater Project.</p> <p>1. When will this funding be provided?</p> <p>2. Has the Government had discussions or communications, either before or after the election period, with either the South Australian Government or the local councils involved in this project? If so, please detail the date and content of such communications.</p> <p>3. Will the project proceed if funding support is not provided by the South Australian Government?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
86	4.1: WGD	Birmingham	State environmental water entitlements	Is the Department aware of plans in any state to change the status of environmental water entitlements? If so, what changes are proposed and what will their impact be?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
87	4.1: WGD	Joyce	National Urban Water and Desalination Plan	The Government reduced funding for the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan by \$50 million during the election. What is the amount of funds now left allocated in this program?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
88	4.1: WRD	Siewert	Becher Point Wetlands	<p>1. Did the Department fund the Ecological Character Description report for the Becher Wetlands in Port Kennedy WA?</p> <p>2. Does the Department have a copy of the report and if yes, can the report be tabled?</p> <p>3. If the Department didn't fund the report, did they have access to it while preparing the recent Ramsar report on Becher Wetlands?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11



QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
89	4.1: WRD	Birmingham	Lower Lakes and Goolwa Channel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has any analysis been undertaken, or is any being undertaken, of the impacts of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the bund between Lakes Alexandrina and Albert; or</li> <li>the temporary regulators installed around the Goolwa Channel?</li> </ol> </li> <li>Given the recent restoration of water levels, could the issues that led to these measures have been addressed by any other means?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
90	4.1: WRD	Birmingham	Water for the Future communication campaign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>please detail the total cost of the campaign, with a breakdown of spending by stages such as creative development and media buy;</li> <li>please provide details of all contracts of parties involved with the campaign, including names, costs, dates engaged and by what means engaged;</li> <li>please detail in which print publications, and on what dates, the advertisements ran;</li> <li>please detail which electronic media (TV or radio) carried the advertisements, and on what dates (or range of dates);</li> <li>please provide a copy of all creative concepts prepared for this campaign</li> <li>please provide copies of all documents, including emails and notes of telephone conversations, provided by any Minister or Ministerial Office relating to the creative concepts, scripts or contents of this campaign</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11 + 8 att'ts	03/03/11
91	4.1: WRD	Birmingham	Production efficiency in MDB	Does the Department or the Murray Darling Basin Authority have any data or estimates on the relative production efficiency of each region within the Murray-Darling Basin? If so, please provide relevant data and/or sources.	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
92	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Briefings from MDBA	Does the Department receive briefings from the MDBA? If so, how many briefings has it received in the last 3 months, and when were those briefings?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
93	4.1: WRD	Birmingham	Financial decisions based on Basin Plan Guide	Has the Department or the Murray Darling Basin Authority contacted banks or financial institutions in response to reports they are preparing to foreclose or make financial decisions based on proposals contained in the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan? If so, what representations were made, by whom and when?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
94	4.1: WRD	Birmingham	National Water Initiative – state reforms	Have all reforms committed to by the States as part of the 2004 National Water Initiative been completed? If not, please detail which reforms in which states remain to be completed.	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
95	4.1: WRD	Joyce	Basin Plan – Australian Government cross-agency group	<p>On p. xxviii of the Guide to the Basin Plan the MDBA refers to an Australian Government cross-agency group “to consider the implications of the proposed Basin Plan and to coordinate the government’s response.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is this crossagency group and who is on it? When was (or will) this group be formed? Why was it formed?</li> <li>Does it have a terms of reference? What are its likely outputs?</li> <li>Who is the group reporting to?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
96	5.2: HD	Colbeck	Assessment of the Tarkine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the schedule for the assessment of the Tarkine?</li> <li>What meetings have officials had with stakeholders? Who? Where? When?</li> </ol>	129 (18/10/10) and Written	14/02/11	03/03/11

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				<p>[also taken on notice during hearing - Hansard page 129 (18/10/10)]</p> <p>3. Which officials have been undertaking the assessment?</p> <p>4. How many submissions were made to the assessment process?</p> <p>5. What has been the cost of the assessment process? What is the anticipated final cost? [also taken on notice during hearing - Hansard page 129 (18/10/10)]</p> <p>6. Has the Australian Heritage Council provided the Minister with its final assessment and recommendation, and if so, on what date was this provided?</p> <p>7. If the assessment has not been provided, what is the reason for the delay given the Heritage Council indicated it would give its final recommendations to the Minister by September 30, 2010.</p> <p>8. When will the Minister announce his decision regarding the Tarkine's future in terms of Heritage Listing?</p>	Question		
97	5.2: HD	Ludlam	Management plans for Commonwealth Heritage List sites	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—I understand that there are 337 places on the Commonwealth Heritage List and all of them are required to have management plans under the EPBC Act. Is that the case?</p> <p><b>Mr Shevlin</b>—The Commonwealth has to use its best endeavours to encourage the development of a management plan. ...</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—How many of those management plans have been finalised?</p> <p><b>Mr Shevlin</b>—Of the 89 places we have on the list, 40 have plans that are finalised under the EPBC Act itself and a further five have draft plans that currently we are reviewing. There are about 24 places that have plans in place that were not made under the EPBC Act but that we believe provide entirely adequate protection—they were just made under state or territory legislation. There are 12 places that at the moment have plans under state or territory legislation—but we do not think they provide full protection for national heritage values yet.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Could you table what you are reading or as much of it as you are able to? That might be helpful.</p> <p><b>Mr Shevlin</b>—There is a whole lot of other information in there as well.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM</b>—Could you table whatever is directly relevant to the question—some kind of breakdown of the progress to date of management plans? That might be handy rather than reading them out one by one because time is fairly short. ...</p>	131 (18/10/10)	14/02/11	03/03/11
98	6: Housing	Payne	National Housing Supply Council State of Supply 2009 report	<p>1. How does the department plan to accommodate the extra residents as a result of immigration under the following scenarios set out in the National Housing Supply Council State of Supply Report (Page 18-19)?</p> <p>a. Low growth household increase?</p> <p>b. Medium growth household increase?</p> <p>c. High growth household increase?</p> <p>2. Given the National Housing Supply Council is constrained by a lack of data to analyse residential development in metropolitan areas, how does the department and</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>the government plan to obtain information including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential titles issued?</li> <li>Information on smaller infill development held by state, territory and local governments?</li> <li>More consistent data on land activities in the pipeline?</li> <li>Analysis of factors affecting development risk and the relative price of various types of residential development?</li> </ol>			
99	6: Housing	Payne	National Rental Affordability Scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many NRAS project incentives have been awarded since the scheme began?</li> <li>Please provide a breakdown by state and by capital city of the number of incentives awarded under the NRAS scheme.</li> <li>Is it correct that Victoria has received twice as many incentives to date as NSW?</li> <li>Have you investigated why Victoria has received twice as many incentives as NSW under NRAS? What can you conclude?</li> <li>In reference to the comment from a spokesperson for NSW Housing Minister Frank Terenzini ('Essential city workers who can't afford to live in it', SMH 16 Oct 2010): "As the NRAS funding incentive ... is a flat rate it should be noted that NSW is structurally disadvantaged due to the higher land costs which make development projects less viable here." <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the department agree that NSW is structurally disadvantaged under the scheme?</li> <li>Are there any plans to vary the way in which the scheme operates in order to end this structural disadvantage?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
100	6: Housing	Payne	Housing Affordability Fund	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How much money has been spent to date under the program?</li> <li>How many development projects have been approved to date?</li> <li>How many development projects have been completed?</li> <li>Please provide a state-by-state breakdown, both of the amount of money spent and the number of developments approved.</li> <li>Please provide a list of development projects that have been approved to date, as well as a list of developments that have been completed.</li> <li>How do you measure the relative risk of each individual project?</li> <li>How do you measure 'financial considerations including all relevant direct and indirect benefits and costs over the whole procurement cycle'?</li> <li>When is Round 3 of the fund expected to open?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
101	6: Housing	Payne	National Housing Supply Council travel budget	<p>With regard to the travel budget of the National Housing Supply Council (answer to Community Affairs QoN 078 Budget Estimates):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What was the total travel bill of the NHSC for 2009-10?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>2. Why was there a 17% increase in travel bills for the Council between 2008-09 and 2009-10 (to 31 May 2010)?</p> <p>3. How much has the NHSC budgeted to spend on travel in 2010-11?</p>			
102	Corporate: BID	Abetz	Discretionary Grants	<p>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.</p> <p>2. Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
103	Corporate: BID	Birmingham	Consultancies – past financial year	<p>1. How many consultants has the Department engaged in the past financial year?</p> <p>2. What is the total value of the consultancies the Department has engaged in over the past financial year?</p> <p>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).</p> <p>4. Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
104	Corporate: BID	Abetz	Consultancies since Budget Estimates	<p>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).</p> <p>2. How can the department justify this expenditure?</p> <p>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</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.</p> <p>4. 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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			
105	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Programs – overspend / underspend	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
106	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Administrative Arrangements Orders	<p>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.</p> <p>2. Can you detail what changes have occurred in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 September 2010.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. Were there any changes in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 October 2010.</p> <p>a. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage). Please provide details.</p> <p>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</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				APS band.			
107	Corporate: BID	Abetz	Employment of specific contractors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting &amp; UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting &amp; UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.</li> <li>4. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.</li> <li>5. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.</li> <li>6. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.</li> <li>7. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>9. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey &amp; Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey &amp; Company? If yes, provide details.</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
108	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Government payment of accounts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.)</li> <li>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?</li> <li>3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
109	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Staff reductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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?</li> </ol>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>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?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>			
110	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Efficiency Dividend	<p>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.</p> <p>2. Will any agencies in your portfolio be seeking an exemption to implementing the efficiency dividend?</p> <p>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).</p> <p>4. Will there be cuts to staff? If yes, give details.</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
111	Corporate: CSD	Birmingham	Staff travel	<p>1. How many Departmental staff travelled overseas in the past financial year? Please detail by staff member, including their name and position, their total travel expenses.</p> <p>2. How many staff travelled first class? How many travelled business class?</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of overseas travel for the Department in the past financial year? Please include a list of all international travel itemised by trip, detailing the cost of each trip including the total amounts spent on accommodation and meals, cities or other destinations visited, the purpose of the travel and any specific outcomes achieved.</p> <p>4. How many future overseas trips is the Department currently planning?</p> <p>5. How many staff travelled interstate in the past financial year? What was the total accommodation and meals bill for staff travelling interstate over the past financial year?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
112	Corporate: CSD	Birmingham	Staff training	<p>1. How many staff training programmes has the Department conducted in the past financial year and at what cost?</p> <p>2. How many of these staff training programmes were held outside Canberra?</p> <p>3. How many staff attended these programmes and where were they held?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
113	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Travel Costs	<p>1. The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed a whole-of-government coordinated procurement arrangements for travel and related services. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies? Please explain the changes that have occurred to your department and portfolio agencies in relation to its travel and related services.</p> <p>2. Is purchasing of travel and related services less expensive under the new</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>arrangements?</p> <p>3. Is purchasing of travel and related services more efficient under the new arrangements?</p> <p>4. Have savings been achieved in your portfolio because of the new arrangements?</p> <p>5. How much did your department and portfolio agencies spend on travel in 2008-09, 2009-10 and to date this financial year.</p> <p>6. How have staff within your department and portfolio agencies found the new arrangements? For example is it more efficient to arrange travel?</p>			
114	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Commonwealth Property Management Framework	<p>1. The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed the establishment of Commonwealth Property Management Framework. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies?</p> <p>2. Has the implementation of this Framework lead to savings in your portfolio? Please provide details.</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
115	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Whole-of-government departmental efficiencies	<p>1. The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies?</p> <p>2. Can you provide details of how these efficiencies will be achieved? Please provide specific examples.</p> <p>3. Will the implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend impact on your department or portfolio agencies ability to meet the efficiencies outlined in the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook?</p> <p>4. Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff to meet the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies in your portfolio? If so, please provide details? Are there such plans for the future?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
116	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Government stationery requirements	<p>1. What are the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. special type of paper, envelopes)?</p> <p>2. What are the cost of these items? Is the Department/portfolio agencies paying for these?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
117	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Changes to staffing levels	<p>1. What have been the changes in staffing levels since Budget Estimates 2010? Why have these changes occurred? What have been the Budgetary implications? In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department? What functions these staff performed have been sacrificed and why?</p> <p>2. How many permanent staff recruited since Budget Estimates 2010? What level are these staff? Where is their location?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11



QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>3. Since Budget Estimates 2010, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</p> <p>4. Are there expected changes to current staffing levels over the next 12 months? If yes, provide details including a breakdown of each level staff (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band) detailing the changes. Will this be different to what was reported in the 2010-11 Budget?</p>			
118	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Staffing levels	<p>1. What is the total expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies? What is the SES and non-SES breakdown?</p> <p>2. What are the current staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers?</p> <p>3. How many SES were employed in your Department and portfolio agencies on 10 May 2010?</p> <p>4. How many SES were employed in your Department and portfolio agencies as of today?</p> <p>5. What is the breakdown by each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?</p> <p>6. What is the gender breakdown by each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?</p> <p>7. What is the breakdown by location for each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?</p> <p>8. What is the breakdown by each level of ongoing staff and non ongoing staff (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?</p> <p>9. What has been the general staffing trend in your department and portfolio agencies since the 2007 election (for example SES numbers and recruitment has increased by X per cent because of Y).</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
119	Corporate: CSD	Abetz and Birmingham	Hospitality spend - Ministerial	For each Minister/Parl Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD and for the past financial year. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
120	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Efficiencies announced during 2010 election	If your Department/agency has been identified in the 2010 election as delivering efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, savings commitments included reducing program funding, rationalising grants etc how will these impact the department and staffing).	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
121	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Graduate and cadetship programs	What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
122	Corporate: CSD	Abetz and Birmingham	Hospitality spend - department	What is the Department's hospitality spend since Budget Estimates 2010 and for the past financial year? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
123	Corporate:	Abetz	Media	1. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV	Written	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	PCD		Subscriptions	(for example Foxtel)? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels. 2. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers. 3. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.	Question		
124	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Electoral Reports	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?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
125	Corporate: PCD	Fielding	Incoming Government Briefs	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?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
126	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Ministerial Submissions	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	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				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?			
127	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	FOI requests	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?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
128	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Commissioned Reports	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?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
129	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Advertising and marketing	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?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
130	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings	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).	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
131	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	2010 Election Commitments	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?	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Provide details of what work was done.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2010 election within the portfolio? Please provide a list.</p> <p>4. Has implementation of the 2010 election commitments within the portfolio commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>How will the election commitments in your portfolio be offset? Will your portfolio be required to offset the new spending in your portfolio?</p>			
132	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Board Appointments	<p>1. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?</p> <p>2. What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since Budget Estimates 2010?</p> <p>3. Are you implementing the Government target of 40 per cent women appointed to Boards?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
133	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	2007 Election Commitments	<p>1. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2007 election within the portfolio?</p> <p>2. Which 2007 election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?</p> <p>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?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
134	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Reviews	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. How many reviews are ongoing?</p> <p>4. How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?</p> <p>5. What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11

QON No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				6. Will any of these reviews cease due to the 2010 Election?			
135	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	2010 Election work undertaken	<p>1. What type of work did your portfolio engage in during the campaign?</p> <p>2. Did you receive any requests for information from the Government, your portfolio Ministers or any other Ministers?</p> <p>3. Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?</p> <p>4. Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
136	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Community Cabinet	<p>1. What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates 2010?</p> <p>2. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of this travel?</p> <p>4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
137	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Media Monitoring	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
138	Corporate: CSD	Abetz	Social Media	<p>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?</p> <p>IF YES: please explain what restrictions has been put in place. Why were these restrictions put in place?</p> <p>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?</p>	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11
139	Corporate: PCD	Abetz	Outstanding questions on notice	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.	Written Question	14/02/11	03/03/11