

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

Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011

**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA **Question No:** 124

**Topic:** Social and Economic  
References Committee

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. I refer to the minutes of the Authority's meeting 29 of 1 March 2011. Agenda item 3, point 8, states that the Chair requested the Chief Executive write to inform people who had been approached in regards to the establishment of a Social and Economic references committee to inform them that such a committee would not be formed. Who was approached? How were they used at earlier or later stages of the consultation process? Why was the committee idea discontinued?
2. Please provide copies of the minutes of the Authorities meetings since 1 March 2011.

**Answer:**

1. Section 203 of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) enables the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (the Authority) to establish advisory committees to assist it in performing any of its functions.

Dr. Neil Byron, former Commissioner of the Productivity Commission, Professor Margaret Alston, Professor of Social Work at Monash University, Professor Geoff Syme of the Centre for Planning at Edith Cowan University, Professor Don Anderson, Professor of Management Accounting, University of Queensland, and Professor Daniela Stehlik, chair Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation were approached to join a Social and Economic Reference Committee.

In late 2010, the MDBA considered a proposal to establish a Social and Economic Reference Committee under s.203 of the *Water Act*. As a considerable program of analysis into the potential social and economic impacts of the proposed Basin Plan was underway, a number of operational arrangements were reviewed following the appointment of the new Chair of the Authority in early 2011. After considering its overall needs, the Authority decided that, rather than form a specific Social and Economic Reference Committee, it would put in place a broader program of engagement with community leaders, academics and state and Commonwealth officials on social and economic issues.

Stakeholders have been involved in a range of workshops and meetings addressing aspects of the social and economic analysis, including ecological response and valuation, the social implications of the Basin Plan and economic modelling and costs analysis. All but one of the original nominees to the Social and Economic Reference Committee participated in those workshops and meetings.

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2. Copies of the minutes of the Authority's meeting since 1 March 2011 are attached. Meeting minutes including decisions which are appropriate to release are provided as follows:

- Meeting 29 – 1 March 2011, **Attachment A**;
- Meeting 29a – 9 March 2011, **Attachment B**;
- Meeting 29b – 16 March 2011, **Attachment C**;
- Meeting 29c – 23 March 2011, **Attachment D**;
- Meeting 30 – 5 April 2011, **Attachment E**;
- Meeting 30a – 11 April 2011, **Attachment F**;
- Meeting 30b – 19 April 2011, **Attachment G**;
- Meeting 31 – 3 May 2011, **Attachment H**;
- Meeting 31a – 11 May 2011, **Attachment I**;
- Meeting 31b – 19 May 2011, **Attachment J**;
- Meeting 32 – 7 June 2011, **Attachment K**;
- Meeting 32a – 21 June 2011, **Attachment L**;
- Meeting 33 – 5 July 2011, **Attachment M**; and
- Meeting 34 – 26 July 2011, **Attachment N**.

The meeting minutes contain material disclosing matters in the nature of, or relating to, deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purposes of, the deliberative processes involved in the functions of the MDBA and, accordingly, this material has been omitted.

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Attachment A – Authority Meeting 29 – 1 March 2011 – Adelaide

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 9.45 am.
2. The Chair **welcomed** Mr James Flintoft and informed members that Mr Flintoft had been invited to perform the role of board Secretary to the Authority, on part-time secondment from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Members **agreed** to the appointment of Mr Flintoft as a dedicated Secretary to the Board. Mr Flintoft **described** his considerable private and public sector experience, which included a strong background in business enterprise banking and strategic consulting.
3. The Chair **noted** the resignation of Dr Diana Day and **recorded** his thanks for her contribution to the work of the Authority since her appointment.
4. The Chair **reported** that he had drafted a letter to Dr Diana Day in response to her letter of resignation to the Governor-General. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **endorsed** the contents of the Chair's letter to Dr Day, and **agreed** that a copy of the letter should be filed with a copy of Dr Day's letter of resignation in the Authority records.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

5. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 29. The Chair **emphasised** the importance of focusing on Item 7, and thanked Authority officers for the high quality of the papers that they had prepared for that item.

*Conflict of Interest*

6. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings 27, 28 and 28a**

7. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **confirmed** the minutes of Meetings 27 (12 January 2011) as amended, 28 (1 February 2011) and 28a (7 February 2011).
8. While acknowledging the importance of social and economic matters, members **agreed** to discontinue the establishment of the Social and Economic Reference Committee. The Chair **requested** the Chief Executive to inform those people who had been approached that the Authority would not be pursuing that particular avenue, although their services could be drawn upon in the future, and to thank them for their willingness to contribute.

**Agenda Item 4: Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Actions**

9. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** the Matters Arising.

**Agenda Item 5: Chair's Report**

10. The Chair stated that he had reviewed the role and functions of the Basin Plan Issues Committee (BPIC) and **recommended** that there was no longer any need for this group to continue. He stated that, should any governance issues emerge, they should be dealt with by

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the MDBA Audit and Compliance Committee. Members **noted** the review and assessment of the operations of BPIC in accordance with the Sunset clause of the MDBA Corporate Governance Policies – Authority Member BPIC document. Members **agreed** to abolish BPIC and **agreed** that if there were any outstanding issues before BPIC, they should be transferred to the Audit Committee. The Chair **requested** that the Secretary:

- (a) review the governance structures for the Authority focusing on the Committees; and
- (b) review the list of BPIC issues to determine whether any matters should be referred to the MDBA Audit and Compliance Committee.

12. The Chair **stated** that he had met with the Basin Community Committee (BCC) in Sydney the previous day and that he had talked to its members about a greater level of involvement in developing the Basin Plan. This had been welcomed by BCC members. The BCC Chair, Mrs Joan Burns would be attending Basin Official Committee meetings and the Chair had invited her to be a member of the Basin Plan Testing Committee. The Chair also reported that he had met with the chairs of Regional Development Australia the previous week and that discussions with them had focused on construction of a regional implementation framework and ways in which water issues could be embraced within that framework.

**Agenda Item 6: Chief Executive's Report**

15. Members **discussed** the inquiry into the Provisions of the *Water Act 2007* being held by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee. Given that the Authority was a statutory body which had to work under the Act, members **agreed** that it was inappropriate for the Authority to comment on provisions of the Act and therefore should not provide a submission to the inquiry but would assist as required by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in any submission they make.
17. Members **endorsed** the Chief Executive's recommendation to administratively establish the Basin Plan Development Working Group and **agreed** to establish a committee under section 203 of the *Water Act 2007* called the Basin Plan Testing Committee.
18. Members **agreed** to the appointments of Karlene Maywald, Peter Cosier, Jeff Angel, Kel Baxter, Thomas Parry, Joan Burns and Mal Peters to the Basin Plan Testing Committee. Members further **agreed** that any additional appointments to the Committee should be decided by the Chair, noting that two additional members were likely to be appointed (one each from Queensland and Victoria). Members **noted** that there was a need to include people with expertise in agribusiness and **agreed** to send any nominations to the Chair via the new Secretary.
19. Members **agreed** to the proposed roster for attendance at future BCC meetings. Members briefly discussed the Authority position on media communications by non-executive board members and **endorsed** continuation of the current policy that the Chair and Chief Executive were the primary spokespeople for the Authority, and that members should seek clearance from the agency's media unit before responding to media requests.

*Di Davidson withdrew from the meeting at 1.30pm.*

**Agenda Item 8: Other MDBA Activities**

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**Agenda Item 8.1: River Murray Update**

35. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** the River Murray update and in particular the current water resources availability, key River Murray System management issues, and progress with the asset management program.

**Agenda Item 8.2: Natural Resource Management**

36. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** key developments and issues within the Natural Resource Management Division.

**Agenda Item 9: Other Business**

37. There were no items of Other Business.

**Agenda Item 14: Next Meeting**

38. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **agreed** to the Chair's proposal that the Authority meet on a weekly basis until the draft Basin Plan had been completed, with the next meeting to be held in Sydney on Wednesday 9 March 2011 in conjunction with the first meeting of the Basin Plan Testing Committee.

**Meeting Close**

39. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 2.05 pm.

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Attachment B – Authority Meeting 29a – 9 March 2011 – Sydney

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 9.15 am, and **noted** that it was a continuation of the meeting held in Adelaide on 1 March 2011.
2. There were no apologies.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

3. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 29a, and **noted** that the agenda papers for item 7 – Basin Plan had been carried over from meeting 29 – 1 March 2011.

*Conflict of Interest*

4. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Other Business**

**Agenda Item 4.1: Report by Board Secretary**

23. Mr James Flintoft, Board Secretary, reported that a working group had been formed within the Agency to prepare a strategic work-plan for delivery to the Authority at the next meeting (16 March 2011). A more detailed list of issues would be presented at the April board meeting. The manner in which information could be supplied to the Basin Testing Committee was also being considered.
24. Mr Flintoft also reported that a new Australian Government interdepartmental committee had been formed to assist in progressing input to the draft Basin Plan, comprising representatives of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities; the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and Regional Australia. The Chair **emphasised** the importance of having strong, strategic-management links between the Authority and other Australian Government departments and agencies. He also **emphasised** the need to have disaggregate, state by state approaches.

**Agenda Item 5: Next Meeting**

26. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **agreed** that the next meeting would be held in Adelaide on Wednesday 16 March 2011 and **noted** that Prof Hart had a conflicting commitment and could not attend. In response to Prof Hart's request, Mr Flintoft advised he was preparing a schedule of Authority weekly meeting dates.

**Meeting Close**

27. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 1.05 pm.

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Attachment C – Authority Meeting 29b – 16 March 2011 – Adelaide

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 3.10 pm.
2. Apologies were **received** from Professor Barry Hart.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

3. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 29b, and **noted** that the agenda papers for Item 7 – Basin Plan had been carried over from meeting 29 – 1 March 2011.

*Conflict of Interest*

4. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 3: Discussion of Meeting 29 Agenda Item 7 Basin Plan (Strategic Pathways)  
Continued**

**Agenda Item 3.1: Discussion of Meeting 29 Agenda Item 7.5: Engagement on the Proposed Basin Plan**

5. Members **agreed** that the objectives of the stakeholder engagement process should be to:
  - (a) draw on the knowledge of stakeholders and thereby develop a better Basin Plan;
  - (b) build stakeholder support (including Commonwealth and state support) for the proposed Basin Plan; and
  - (c) build stakeholder capacity to implement and adapt to water reform in the Basin.
8. Members **noted** that there was a new cross-agency group, the Murray–Darling Reform Joint Taskforce, sponsored by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, comprising about 15 officers on secondment from the Department of The Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, and Regional Australia.
9. Members **agreed** that there was a need to approach stakeholder engagement through both formal and informal activities.
14. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **endorsed** the Chair's approach to stakeholder engagement.

**Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting**

19. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **agreed** that the next meeting would be held in Brisbane on Wednesday 23 March 2011.

**Meeting Close**

20. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

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Attachment D – Authority Meeting 29c – 23 March 2011 – Brisbane Airport

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 4.30 pm.
2. Apologies were **received** from Mr James Flintoft.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

3. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 29c.

*Conflict of Interest*

4. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Advancing the Consultancy—*Community impacts of the proposed Murray–Darling Basin Plan***

15. Members **agreed** that the Chair and the Chief Executive would **prepare** a statement for presentation to the House of Representatives Committee hearing on Friday 25 March 2011.

**Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting**

18. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **agreed** that the next Authority meeting would be held in Canberra on Tuesday 5 April 2011.

**Meeting Close**

19. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 6.10 pm.

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Attachment E – Authority Meeting 30 – 5 April 2011 – Canberra

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 8.45 am.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

2. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 30. The Chair **emphasised** the importance of focusing on Item 7.

*Conflict of Interest*

3. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings 29, 29a, 29b and 29c**

4. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **confirmed** minutes of Meetings 29 – 1 March, 29a – 9 March, 29b – 16 March and 29c – 23 March 2011, subject to amendment of paragraphs 22 and 23 of Meeting 29.

**Agenda Item 4: Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Actions**

5. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** actions completed and progress against current activities since meeting 29 -1 March 2011.

**Agenda Item 5: Chair's Report**

6. The Chair provided an oral report on his activities over the last few weeks, and described in detail his intensive program of stakeholder meetings throughout the Basin and his meeting with the Ministerial Forum on Friday 1 April 2011.

**Item 6: Chief Executive's Report**

10. After a brief discussion, Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **endorsed** the draft 2011–2015 Corporate Plan.
11. The Chief Executive **outlined** the status of FOI requests and **asked** that Prof Barry Hart provide him with any email correspondence, or other documents, relating to feedback on the submission presented by CSIRO, which were required to complete the discovery of documents for FOI request 22.
12. The Chief Executive **reported** that giving evidence to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia's Inquiry into the impact of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan in regional Australia had provided an opportunity to publicly clarify media misinterpretation of CSIRO feedback on the *Guide to the proposed Basin Plan*. Members

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**agreed** to put the section of the hearing transcript relevant to CSIRO on the Authority website, plus a link to the full transcript, when it became available from Hansard.

13. Members **noted** the Chief Executive's report on the National Cultural Flows Planning and Research Committee.
14. Members **clarified** the Authority position on media communications by non-executive board members agreed at Meeting 29 and **agreed** that they should seek clearance from the Chair or the Chief Executive, rather than the media unit as previously agreed, before responding to media requests, but that they should also check with the media unit in case there were any matters that they needed to be aware of.
15. Members **noted** the concerns of nominees of the proposed Social and Economic Reference Committee at the disbandment of the Committee, but **agreed** that it was important to focus on getting the best possible outcomes from the consulting work currently being completed and the drawing together of other social and economic impact information.
16. Members **noted** the delay in publishing of the National Water Account by the Bureau of Meteorology, due to delays in receiving data from the eight regions, and members **agreed** that this matter be raised at the next BOC meeting when states would be encouraged to be more responsive.

**Agenda Item 7.3: Ground Water SDLs — Managing Deep Groundwater Systems (Including Coal-Seam Gas)**

28. Authority members **agreed** SEWPac be invited to brief Authority meeting 31 on 3 May.

**Agenda Item 7.10: Update on Engagement**

51. Members discussed the paper ...(*Feedback on the Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan*), which provided a summary with statistics on who provided feedback, where they were from, what they said... and **agreed** that the document should be made available on the Authority website.

**Agenda Item 8: Basin Plan Development Working Group and Testing Committee**

52. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** that the Basin Plan Development Working Group meets weekly, having met on 11, 18 and 25 March 2011. Members of the Group are: Don Frater (KPMG), Simon Corden (KPMG), Peter Sutherland (GHD), Jennifer Westacott (KPMG, until 1 April 2011), and Lyndsay Neilson. Members **noted** the feedback provided by the Basin Plan Development Working Group.
53. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** that the Basin Plan Testing Committee meets fortnightly, having met on 11 and 25 March 2011. Members of the Committee are: Karlene Maywald, Peter Cosier, Thomas Parry, Mal Peters, Christine Forster, Jeff Angel, Kel Baxter, Joan Burns and Ian Todd. Members **noted** the feedback provided by the Testing Committee.

**Agenda Item 9: Other MDBA Activities**

**Agenda Item 9.1: River Murray Update**

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54. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** the River Murray update and, in particular, current water resource availability, key River Murray System management issues and progress with the assets management program.

**Agenda Item 9.2: Natural Resource Management**

55. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** key developments and issues within the Natural Resource Management Division.

**Agenda Item 10: Other Business**

**10.1 BCC Briefing**

56. The Chair **requested** that the Basin Community Committee be provided with a briefing on outcomes from this Authority meeting, at its next meeting, to be held on 20 April 2011. This would be done by Di Davidson who would be the Authority representative at the meeting.

**10.2 Authority Attendance at BOC Meetings**

57. The Chair **requested** that members seek to attend BOC meetings whenever possible to demonstrate the Authority's high level of interest and involvement. He hoped to join the meeting by teleconference.

**Agenda Item 11: Next Meeting**

58. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **agreed** to meet on Monday 11 April 2011, either face-to-face in Sydney, or by teleconference, at a time to be decided in consultation with members. The meeting would focus on resolution of items 7.1 and 7.6 from Meeting 30.

**Meeting Close**

59. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 4.55 pm.

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Attachment F – Authority Meeting 30a – 11 April 2011 – Teleconference

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 3.15 pm.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

2. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 30a.

*Conflict of Interest*

3. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**4.2 Upcoming Basin Officials (BOC) Meeting**

12. The Chair **advised** he would be participating by teleconference in BOC meeting 11 – 14 April 2011 to reinforce the messages from the Ministerial Forum on 1 April. Di Davidson confirmed her availability to attend and the Chair **reiterated** his request from Authority meeting 30 that members seek to attend BOC meetings to demonstrate the Authority's wish to work collaboratively and with transparency.

**Agenda Item 5: Next Meeting**

14. Murray–Darling Basin Authority **agreed** to meet on Tuesday 19 April 2011 by teleconference.

**Meeting Close**

15. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 4.35 pm.

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Attachment G – Authority Meeting 30b – 19 April 2011 – Teleconference

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 8.05 pm.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

2. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 30b.

*Conflict of Interest*

3. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Draft Agenda, Meeting MDBA 31**

9. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **agreed** to the draft agenda for Meeting 31 to be held on 3 May 2011.

**Agenda Item 5: Other Business**

**5.1 Basin Officials Committee Meeting**

10. Ms Di Davidson **reported** on the Basin Officials Committee meeting on 14 April 2011 which she had attended on the Chair's behalf.

**5.2 Windsor report**

11. The Chair **reported** that tabling of the House of Representatives Committee inquiry into the Impact of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan in Regional Australia (the Windsor report) might be delayed and suggested that if it was delayed, the Authority could not delay the release of its proposed Basin Plan. The Chair **suggested** that if there was going to be a significant delay with the Windsor report, the Authority could seek a private briefing with the chair on the report's main findings.

**Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting**

12. Murray–Darling Basin Authority **agreed** to meet on Tuesday 3 May 2011 in Sydney.

**Meeting Close**

13. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

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Attachment H – Authority Meeting 31 – 3 May 2011 – Sydney Airport

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 9.00 am and **stated** that he would adjourn the meeting briefly at 10.00 am so that he could open, by phone, the Science Forum being held that day in Canberra (see item 5, paragraph 13).
2. Apologies were **received** from Mr David Green.
3. The Chair **reported** that there was still no news on the appointment of a new member.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

4. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 31.

*Conflict of Interest*

5. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.
6. The Secretary **stated** that, in his review of governance arrangements and the management of risk through current governance structures, it had emerged that written disclosures of conflicts of interest had not been completed by most Authority members for 2011. The Authority's own protocols (adopted on 1 February 2010, and reflecting the requirement of the *Water Act 2007*) required a written disclosure to be made on an annual basis, and as individual member's circumstances changed. The Chair therefore **requested** that all members provide a current written disclosure of conflicts of interest as soon as convenient.

**Agenda Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting 30**

7. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **confirmed** the minutes of Meeting 30 (5 April 2011).

**Agenda Item 4: Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Actions**

8. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** actions completed and progress against current activities since meeting 30 (5 April 2011).
9. Members **discussed** action item 27/2/1 (Authority meeting 27 – 12 January 2011) relating to the attendance of Executive Directors at all Authority meetings and **agreed** that this was not necessary, and that Executive Directors should attend only when an item was directly relevant to their administrative area.
10. Members **discussed** action item 27/9.1/1 (Authority meeting 27) relating to having the Director of the Media Strategy Unit present at all Authority meetings and **agreed** that, given

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the importance of media communications in the lead-up to release of the proposed Basin Plan, the Director ... should be present at all Authority meetings.

**Agenda Item 5: Chair's Report**

11. The Chair **provided** an oral report on his activities over the last few weeks, and stressed that the Authority had now moved into an important pre-release phase of activity which included two main areas of work: (1) drafting the suite of documents associated with the proposed Basin Plan (hence Prof Lyndsay Neilson's attendance at the meeting); and (2) widespread, 'no surprises' communication with stakeholders and jurisdictions. In his May tour of the Basin, the Chair would convey the message that the Authority was wrapping up current engagement activities and preparing stakeholders for the imminent release of the proposed Basin Plan, which would be followed by more consultations.
12. The Chair **noted** the departure of Mr Geoff Haberfeld, Executive Director Engagement Secretariat and Communications, from the Authority and thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Authority.
13. The Chair **reported** that the science workshop, comprising a small group of environmental scientists, was being held on 3 and 4 May 2011 in Canberra to discuss whether the MDBA had availed itself of the best available science and whether the science had been appropriately used in developing the proposed Basin Plan. The outcomes of the workshop would be fed back to the Authority, the Proposed Basin Plan Development Working Group and the Proposed Basin Plan Testing Committee.
14. Following a brief report by Di Davidson on the latest Basin Community Committee (BCC) meeting, which she had attended, the Chair **emphasised** the importance of continuing to include the BCC in Authority processes and inviting BCC members to stakeholder meetings held by the Authority in their regions.

**Agenda Item 6: Chief Executive's Report**

15. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **noted** the Chief Executive's tabled report and in particular matters relating to the recent Basin Officials Committee (BOC) meeting and the Senior Officials Group (SOG) teleconference.
17. Members **requested** a list of names of people nominated for the three Technical Groups which had been established to assist the Social and Economic Working Group (convened by the Authority to assist in guiding its forward work program on social and economic matters).

**Agenda Item 9: Other MDBA Activities**

**Agenda Item 9.1: River Murray Update**

54. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** the River Murray update, in particular, current water resource availability, key River Murray System management issues, and progress with the assets management program.

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55. The Chair **requested** an information briefing from the Executive Director, River Murray, David Dreverman, on the current situation with Lake Hume which was now effectively full, and was likely to stay that way through winter and spring, and the concomitant issue of 'airspace' which was needed to mitigate floods or smaller overbank-flow events.

**Agenda Item 9.2: Natural Resource Management Update**

56. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** key developments and issues within the Natural Resource Management Division.

**Agenda Item 10: Other Business**

**10.1 Secretary's Review of MDBA Governance**

57. Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** that the functions of and the issues managed by the now abolished Basin Plan Issues Committee could appropriately be managed through the current governance arrangements of the Authority.

**Agenda Item 11: Next Meeting**

58. Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** that:
- (a) the next monthly Authority meeting (meeting 32) would be on Tuesday 7 June 2011 in Canberra, and that Di Davidson had provided notice that she would not be able to attend the meeting; and
  - (b) Authority meeting 33 on Tuesday 5 July would also take place in Canberra.
59. Members **agreed** to meet by teleconference on Wednesday 11 May 2011, from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.

**Meeting Close**

60. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 4.12 pm.

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Attachment I – Authority Meeting 31a –11 May 2011 – Teleconference

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 10.35 am.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

2. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 31a.

**Agenda Item 6: Other Business**

3. There were no items of other business.

**Meeting Close**

4. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 12.10 pm.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
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Attachment J – Authority Meeting 31b –19 May 2011 – Teleconference

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. In the absence of the Chair, Authority members **nominated** the Chief Executive to chair the meeting.
2. The Chief Executive **opened** the meeting at 6.50 pm.
3. Apologies were **received** from the Chair, The Hon Craig Knowles, and the Authority Secretary, Mr James Flintoft.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

4. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 31b.

**Meeting Close**

5. The acting Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 8.07 pm.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
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Attachment K – Authority Meeting 32 –7 June 2011 – Teleconference

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 9.20 am and **welcomed** the acting Chief Executive, Dr Rhondda Dickson, to her first board meeting. Dr Dickson will take over as Chief Executive on 30 September 2011, following the retirement of Mr Rob Freeman who was on leave until that date.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

2. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 32.

*Conflict of Interest*

3. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings 30a, 30b and 31**

4. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **confirmed** the minutes of Meeting 30a (11 April 2011), Meeting 30b (19 April 2011) and Meeting 31 (3 May 2011).

**Agenda Item 4: Matters Arising from the Minutes, Including Actions**

5. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** actions completed and progress against current activities since meeting 31 (3 May 2011).

**Agenda Item 5: Chair's Report**

6. The Chair **provided** an oral report on his activities over the last few weeks.

**Item 6: Chief Executive's Report**

7. The acting Chief Executive, Dr Rhondda Dickson, drew Members' attention to her written report.

**Agenda Item 9: Other MDBA Activities**

**Agenda Item 9.1: River Murray Update**

8. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** the River Murray update, in particular, current water resource availability, key River Murray System management issues, and progress with the assets management program.

**Agenda Item 9.2: Natural Resource Management Update**

9. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** key developments and issues within the Natural Resource Management Division.

**Agenda Item 10: Other Business**

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
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10. There were no items of other business.

**Agenda Item 11: Next Meeting**

11. Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** that the next monthly Authority meeting (meeting 33) would be on Tuesday 5 July 2011.
12. Members **agreed** to meet by teleconference to discuss any further matters that needed attention prior to the meeting on 5 July 2011, and in particular the outcomes of the Windsor review report.

**Meeting Close**

13. The Chair **declared** the meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
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Attachment L– Authority Meeting 32a –21 June 2011 – Teleconference

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The acting Chief Executive, Dr Rhondda Dickson, **opened** the meeting at 3.10 pm in the temporary absence of the Chair. She **proposed** taking Item 6 out of order, pending the Chair joining the meeting by telephone.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

2. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 32a.

*Conflict of Interest*

3. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 7: Other Business**

**Basin Community Committee (BCC)**

12. In response to a query about BCC activities, the Chair **advised** that he had attended BCC meeting 17 in May and BCC members had been satisfied with his regional visits and individual members had provided assistance with arranging attendances and programs.

**Agenda Item 8: Next Meeting**

26. Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** that the next monthly Authority meeting (meeting 33) would be on Tuesday 5 July 2011.

**Meeting Close**

27. The meeting closed at 4.10 pm.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
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Attachment M – Authority Meeting 33 –5 July 2011 – Teleconference

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 8.30 am.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

2. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 33.

*Conflict of Interest*

3. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings 31a and 31b**

4. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **confirmed** the minutes of Meeting 31a (11 May 2011) and Meeting 31b (19 May 2011).

**Agenda Item 4: Matters Arising from the Minutes, Including Actions**

5. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** actions completed and progress against current activities since meeting 32 (7 June 2011).

**Agenda Item 5: Chair's Report**

6. The Chair **provided** a brief oral report, stating that there had been a Ministerial forum teleconference the preceding Friday (1 July 2011).
7. The Chair **reported** that owing to a disruptions to flights, Authority members had not been able to join him and the acting Chief Executive in meeting with members of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia (the Windsor inquiry) to discuss the Committee's report on the impact of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan on Regional Australia (*Of drought and flooding rains*) on 22 June 2011 at Parliament House, Canberra.

**Agenda Item 6: Chief Executive's Report**

8. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority members **agreed** to take the report of the acting Chief Executive as read.

**Agenda Item 8: Other MDBA Activities**

**Agenda Item 8.1: River Murray Update**

9. This item was not considered.

**Agenda Item 8.2: Natural Resource Management Update**

10. This item was not considered.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
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**Agenda Item 8.3: Delegation of Powers for the Annual Living Murray Environmental Watering Plan**

11. Murray–Darling Basin Authority members **noted** the Annual Living Murray Environmental Watering Plan 2011–12 (Attachment A) and the instrument of Delegation (Attachment B).
12. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **agreed to** and **executed** the instrument of Delegation No. 7 (2011) to give power to undertake temporary allocation transfers under the Annual Living Murray Environmental Watering Plan to the Executive Director, Natural Resources Management and Executive Director, Corporate Services. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **authorised** the common seal to be affixed in the presence of those members present.

**Agenda Item 9: Other Business**

13. There were no items of other business.

**Agenda Item 10: Next Meeting**

14. On Tuesday 5 July 2011, members **agreed** to continue their meeting by teleconference on Wednesday 6 July 2011 at 12.30 pm to discuss agenda items which the Authority had not been able to consider during the meeting.
15. Murray–Darling Basin Authority **noted** that the next monthly Authority meeting would be on Tuesday 2 August 2011.

**Meeting Close**

16. The Chair **adjourned** the meeting at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 5 July 2011 and reopened the meeting at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 6 July 2011.
17. The Chair **closed** the meeting at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 6 July 2011.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
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Attachment N – Authority Meeting 34 –26 July 2011 – Canberra

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting and Apologies**

1. The Chair **opened** the meeting at 9.40 am.
2. Apologies were **received** from Mr David Green.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Draft Agenda**

3. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority **adopted** the agenda for meeting 34 with the addition of a presentation on modelling at Agenda item 3.3 and changes to the numbering of subsequent agenda items.

*Conflict of Interest*

4. No member declared any conflict of interest, actual or apparent, in relation to any items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 3: Basin Plan**

**Agenda Item 3.1: Chair's Report on Briefings with State Water Ministers**

5. The Chair **reported** that he had met with all state and territory government ministers on a one-on-one basis over the previous two weeks

**Agenda Item 5: Next Meeting**

6. Murray–Darling Basin Authority **agreed** to cancel the monthly Authority meeting scheduled for Tuesday 2 August 2011, and meet by teleconference or face to face if necessary prior to the monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday 6 September 2011.

**Meeting Close**

7. The Chair **closed** the meeting at 3.45 pm.

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**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA **Question No:** 125

**Topic:** Basin Testing Committee – Mr  
Thomas Perry

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Why did Mr Thomas Perry cease his involvement with the Proposed Basin Plan testing committee?
2. Has he been replaced?

**Answer:**

1. Mr Thomas Perry communicated to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority that he had other commitments and that he was not able to dedicate sufficient time to the committee.
2. Mr Thomas Perry has not been replaced.

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

Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

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**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA **Question No:** 126

**Topic:** Carp in the Murray-Darling Basin

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. What action is being taken in light of the explosion of carp numbers in the Basin?
2. Is the MDBA actively monitoring carp numbers?

**Answer:**

1. Action to control carp and improve our knowledge about their biology in the Basin is a driving action of the Native Fish Strategy which has been operating since 2004.

River regulation and infrastructure across the Basin has helped create still-water habitats and weir pools that favour carp over native fish species. Flood events are vital for ecosystem health and the health of native fish populations. However floods can also benefit carp spawning and recruitment. This is especially the case after prolonged periods of low river flows.

Carp control in the Basin is ongoing. Effective carp control involves an integrated approach and includes, but is not limited to fishing, screening flows to prevent carp movement, habitat modification against carp but to suit native fish, chemicals, biological control, pheromones and modification of fishways to trap carp. Further information on actions towards carp control is summarised below.

Physical removal

Physical removal of carp through traps installed in fishways can be effective depending on local conditions and available resources. For instance, over the last 12 months, the fishway at Lock 1 on the Murray River at Blanchetown has largely been operated to maximise the removal of carp. Over 100 tonnes of carp have been harvested over the last three years as the carp attempt to migrate upstream through the Lock 1 fishway.

Increased flows in the Darling River in February 2010 substantially increased flows in the Murray River at Lock 1 and this was followed by a larger flood in early 2011. These events rendered the fishway inoperable due to increased debris and the risk of damage. Nevertheless, electrofishing operations removed 10,791 carp downstream of Locks 1, 2, and 3 between September 2010 and February 2011.

Unlike native fish which retreat when water levels fall, carp often get trapped in creeks and wetlands. This occurred in October 2011 at Disher Creek near Lyrup in the SA Riverina. Locals removed about 5 tonnes of carp from that event. We expect carp will get trapped at other locations as water levels fall.

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Identification of carp spawning 'hotspots'

This work enables carp control to be targeted to specific areas rather than being diluted over thousands of kilometres of river. Seventeen key carp spawning 'hotspots' have been identified.

Studying carp movement and migration

This has helped our understanding of fish movements to assist in planning and implementing integrated pest management for carp.

Genetic control investigation (daughterless carp technology)

Research into the utility of a genetic control program that manipulates the sex ratios of carp to favour the production of males is ongoing.

Cyprinid herpesvirus (Koi herpesvirus)

Laboratory demonstration and published data from Europe and Asia has shown the Cyprinid herpesvirus may be an effective control option against carp in Australia. Further work is required to test susceptibility of hybrid carp and carp of different size classes. Research is currently underway to investigate the risk of transfer to native fish species, and the susceptibility of native fish species.

2. Yes.

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**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA

**Question No:** 127

**Topic:** Lake Mulwala weeds

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Earlier this year the lake was lowered to kill off the weed *Egeria densa*. Is there any impact downstream or risk of the weed spreading due to the release?
2. How prevalent is the weed elsewhere?
3. Is there a more permanent solution or is the lake to be lowered every year?

**Answer:**

1. *Egeria densa* (or dense water weed) can spread through vegetative regrowth. The denser the weed the more likely that boating and other impacts will mobilise healthy stem material that can be carried downstream.

The process of lowering the lake exposes the weed to drying and includes exposure to frosts to kill the weed.

The risk of periodic lowering contributing to the spread of the weed, is lower than that of weed spread through mobilisation of *Egeria* from a fully choked Lake Mulwala. The drawdowns reduce the spread of *Egeria* and hence reduce the number of fragments from which future spread can occur.

The lowerings were deferred during the severe drought of 2003 to 2008 to ensure water available for irrigation was maximised. There was significant build-up of weed in Lake Mulwala and drawdowns have been undertaken in 2008 (partial only due to drought), 2009 and 2011.

2. *Egeria densa* has been reported at multiple sites along the Murray from above Yarrawonga Weir to below the South Australian border with many of the weir pools in between having reported *Egeria* as being present.

3. There is no known permanent solution.

The use of plant specific herbicides is untested in similar environments and there are concerns about such use.

Mechanical harvesting was trialled a decade ago but was found to be ineffective and may even have increased the risk of spread.

Periodic drawdowns every 2 to 3 years on average are considered to offer the best means of reducing weed abundance.

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**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA

**Question No:** 128

**Topic:** MDBA – Travel costs

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

For financial year 2010-11:

1. How many Murray-Darling Basin Authority staff travelled overseas? Please detail by staff member, including their name and position and their total travel expenses. How many staff travelled first class? How many staff travelled business class?
2. What was the total cost of overseas travel for Murray-Darling Basin Authority? Please include a list of all international travel itemised by trip, detailing the number of Murray-Darling Basin Authority staff involved and the cost of each trip including the total amounts spent on accommodation and meals, cities or other destinations visited, the purpose of the travel and any specific outcomes achieved.
3. What was the total amount spent by Murray-Darling Basin Authority on overseas accommodation and meals?
4. How many staff travelled interstate?
5. What was the total accommodation and meals bill for staff travelling interstate over the past year?
6. How many future overseas trips is Murray-Darling Basin Authority currently planning?

**Answer:**

- 1-3. During 2010-11 six Murray-Darling Basin Authority staff travelled overseas at a cost of \$27,675 as detailed at **Attachment A**.
4. 195.
5. \$220,300.
6. One.

## Murray-Darling Basin Authority Travel costs for the financial year 2010-11

Staff Name	Class	Destination	Accommodation, meals & incidentals \$	Flights \$	Total Cost \$	Cities visited	Purpose	Outcomes
Jason Alexandra General Manager Basin Program	Business Class	France	2,845	8,218	11,063	Megeve, Paris	To attend the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) conference – on transboundary river management, the implementation of the EU water directive and climate change. A meeting was also held with the INBO International Director.	16 recommendations on developing a more structured and systematic approach to international cooperation and engagement, including the development and use of criteria to focus and structure international activities.
James Barrett Director, Native Fish Strategy Natural Resource Management	Business Class	United States	453	11,239	11,692	Minneapolis	To attend, and chair a session, at the International Genetic Biocontrol Symposium. Accommodation and most meal cost met by conference organiser.	Maintain leading knowledge and international networks in relation to pest fish bio-control.
Sharon Davis General Manager Basin Plan Environmental Planning	Business Class	New Zealand	176	2,613	2,789	Christchurch	To speak at the Irrigation New Zealand Conference.	Maintain leading knowledge and international networks in relation to irrigation and water resource development in the Australasian region.
David Dreverman Executive Director River Murray Water	Business Class	India	1,255	-	1,255	New Delhi	To participate in the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Water Resource Management. Costs above \$1,255 were met by AusAID.	Increased mutual understanding of, familiarity with and lessons from each country's water policy context. Stronger high-level policy linkages between India and Australia. Strategic direction developed on further bilateral cooperation on water resource management. A functioning Joint Working Group comprising Indian and Australian government officials with policy and technical expertise in water resource management.
Maryanne Slattery Director Special Projects Natural Resource Management	Economy	Italy	650	-	650	Rome, Prato	To attend the International water accounting: effective management of a scarce resource conference. Costs above \$650 were met by an ARC Linkage Grant.	Input to a book on 'International water accounting: effective management of a scarce resource' which is being published this year.
Lindsay White Director Operations Review	Economy	United States	226	-	226	Tucson	Keynote speaker at the Restoring Rivers of the Southwest U.S. And Northern Mexico Bi-National Conference. Costs above \$226 were met by conference organiser.	Information exchange regarding transboundary river management issues in the Colorado Basin and the Murray-Darling Basin, that will be input into a handbook that is being produced by the conference organisers.
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,605</b>	<b>22,070</b>	<b>27,675</b>			

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**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA

**Question No:** 129

**Topic:** MDBA - Training

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Please detail all staff training programs for which Murray-Darling Basin Authority paid in financial year 2010-11, including costs, numbers of participants, the title of each training program and the name of each training provider.

**Answer:**

1. The table below details staff training the Murray-Darling Basin Authority paid for in financial year 2010-11.

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Training program</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Costs</b>
13th International River symposium	13th International River symposium	3	\$2,713.65
Surveying and spatial sciences institute	15th ARSPC workshop	2	\$3,352.73
Surveying and spatial sciences institute	15th Australasian Remote Sensing and photogrammetry conference	1	\$1,480.91
Surveying and spatial sciences institute	15th Australasian Remote Sensing and photogrammetry conference meeting	1	\$46.36
Flinders university	3rd groundwater for decision makers course	1	\$636.36
Frocomm Australia	4th annual new media summit 2011	1	\$995.00
UNSW	99HO conference	1	\$500.00
Wizard corporate training	Access essentials	2	\$1,199.09
Alpha Computer consultants	Adobe Incopy	19	\$9,500.00
Alpha Computer consultants	Adobe photoshop	4	\$2,427.27
Fearless Media group	Adobe photoshop, Indesign, Illustrator workshops	1	\$1,086.36
AGS	AGS Media and communications forum	2	\$1,236.36
AIM	Applied project management	1	\$1,472.73
APSC	APSC graduate development program	16	\$53,778.18
ESRA Australia Pty Ltd	ArcGIS Server Enterprise Config Oracle	1	\$1,555.20
ESRI Training	ArcGIS spatial analyst	1	\$146.14
APSC	Assess your leadership capabilities	1	\$577.27
Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society	Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society 55th Annual conference	1	\$1,018.18
Australian Association of graduate employers	Australian Association of Graduate Employers Annual Conference 2010	1	\$750.00
Flinders University SA	Australian groundwater	2	\$3,618.18

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<b>Provider</b>	<b>Training program</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Australian Hydrographers Association	Australian Hydrographers Association 2010 conference	1	\$590.91
Australian National Comm on Large Dams	Australian National Comm on Large Dams 2010 Dams conference	2	\$1,781.82
Australian National Comm on Large Dams	Australian National Comm on Large Dams study tour	1	\$100.00
IQPC Pty Ltd - Sydney	Australian Regulatory Reform Conference	1	\$3,199.00
James Cook University	Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference	1	\$354.55
ASN Conferences	Australian Society of Limnology Congress 2010	3	\$1,331.82
Kisters Pty Ltd	Basic Hydstra training	2	\$2,727.27
APSC	Career Development Assessment Centre	1	\$11,750.00
Outward bound Australia	Catalyst leadership development program	1	\$2,681.82
AIM	Cert IV in project management	1	\$1,068.18
Polymorphic Solutions Pty Ltd	ChilliDB training	group	\$3,654.00
Corporate Executive Board	CIO conference and reference material	1	\$2,623.28
Comcare	Comcare training	3	\$904.55
Liquid Learning Group	Communication officers conference	2	\$3,590.00
Ark Group	Communications conference and workshop	3	\$6,420.00
TWYFORD CONSULTING	Community engagement workshop	group	\$5,150.09
ANU - ACTON	Conference management	1	\$268.18
EXCOM EDUCATION PTY LTD	Configuring, managing and maintaining windows server 2008 servers	1	\$3,375.00
Australian River Restoration Centre	Connecting through conversations	1	\$395.00
Legalwise Seminars Pty Ltd	Continuing Legal Education subjects	1	\$409.09
Learning Network Solutions	Contracts, Indemnities and Insurance Law	1	\$1,099.00
ThinkTank media Pty Lty	Corporate PA Summit 2010	1	\$1,525.50
CPA Australia	CPA Congress	Group	\$11,781.82
CPA Australia	CPA Excel course	1	\$527.27
The Crawford School	Crawford School dialogue: the Murray-Darling Basin Plan	6	\$545.46
Ngnulu Consultants	Cultural awareness training	group	\$8,902.60
EDDMESS	Data Modelling course	3	\$2,181.82
DAMA	Data Modelling Essentials	1	\$1,000.00
Geometry Pty Ltd	Data Modelling workshop	group	\$4,800.00
Criterion conferences	Developing capability	1	\$3,349.00
Bayley & Associates	Diploma of project management	1	\$3,700.00
Risk Management Institute	Dragon training	1	\$318.18
Wizard corporate training	Dreamweaver	1	\$700.00

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<b>Provider</b>	<b>Training program</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Ecological Society of Australia	Ecological Society of Australia 2010 Conference	1	\$313.64
ANU	Editing and proof reading for the workplace	1	\$813.64
IAP2 Australasians	Effective communication for public participation	2	\$1,072.72
APSC	EL 1 Leading and managing small teams	1	\$2,818.18
APSC	EL 2 transition	1	\$577.27
APSC	EL Event Update	1	\$81.82
APSC	EL leadership	2	\$1,181.82
APSC	EL leadership and management	1	\$2,818.18
APSC	EL leadership network	1	\$300.00
Ark Group	Electronic Document Record Management site visits and workshop	1	\$2,495.00
MARGARET DARCY	Emotional resilience	group	\$6,150.00
Hannover Fairs	Engagement conference	1	\$635.00
ESRI Australia	ESRI technical training	2	\$16,500.00
APSC	Essential writing for Executive Levels	1	\$577.27
AGS	Essentials for the Government lawyer	1	\$2,272.73
Wizard corporate training	Excel advance functions	1	\$318.18
Wizard corporate training	Excel advanced	1	\$308.18
Skillpath	Excel DVDs	group	\$272.68
Wizard corporate training	Excel essentials	3	\$1,018.18
Wizard corporate training	Excel intermediate	2	\$700.00
Wizard corporate training	Excel training	1	\$280.91
Wizard corporate training	Excel training data automation	1	\$318.18
Dimension data	Exchange training	1	\$2,720.00
IQPC	Executive Assistant Conference	1	\$2,399.00
PICS Pty Ltd	Executive Assistant seminar	1	\$1,400.00
APSC	Executive leadership dimensions	1	\$4,263.64
Thinkplace Pty	Executive workshop	group	\$12,280.88
PPC Worldwide	Facilitated discussion	2	\$2,600.00
Earnst & Young	FBT training	2	\$250.00
Attorney-Generals Dept.	Federal Register Legislative Instruments Principal registration	1	\$2,340.00
APSC	Finance training	2	\$1,154.54
APSC	Financial management advanced	4	\$2,309.08
APSC	Financial management introduction	5	\$2,886.35
APSC	Financial skills introduction	1	\$577.27
St Johns	First Aid training	1	\$176.36
Blake Dawson	FOI & Decision making training	group	\$2,779.00
APSC	Giving and receiving feedback	1	\$577.27
FMRC	Government Lawyer's course	3	\$2,727.27

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<b>Provider</b>	<b>Training program</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Costs</b>
APSC	Graduate supervisor training	2	\$1,154.54
Conference solutions	Groundwater 2010 conference	5	\$3636.37
Flinders University SA	Groundwater course	1	\$881.82
Flinders Uni - SA	Groundwater for decision makers	2	\$1,491.36
Seminars Australia	GST seminar	2	\$1,100.00
centre for lead	Harassment and fraud awareness	group	\$1,909.09
Comcare	Harassment Contact Officer seminar	2	\$900.00
Comsuper	Health and Safety Representative training	1	\$735.00
Tonkin Corp	HR Metrics	1	\$1,449.00
Centre for public management	Improving your personal effectiveness	1	\$2,963.64
APSC	Influencing skills	10	\$5,772.70
TP3 Pty Ltd	Information mapping course	group	\$13,290.00
AIM NSW	Innovation and change	1	\$540.91
Digital Brand	Institute of Metadata Management Conference 2011	4	\$3,000.00
The meeting planners	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics XXV General Assembly	2	\$1,590.91
Sustainable Resources Industry training	Introduction to Murray Darling Basin Groundwater	1	\$1,200.00
Powdersafe Pty Ltd	Is it safe to open?	2	\$600.00
International Water Association	IWA Congress registration	1	\$1,658.70
APSC	Job applications and interview skills	2	\$1,154.54
Kirsters User Group	Kirsters User Group workshop	1	\$255.00
ACT Mindscious group	Leadership seminar	1	\$45.00
APSC	Leading and managing small teams	4	\$13,436.36
APSC	Leading, engaging and retaining graduates and emerging talent	3	\$2,286.36
Alpha Computer consultants	Lifecycle training	3	\$2,068.64
Centre for public management	Making Change work	1	\$1,455.82
APSC	Management Essentials	1	\$577.27
SRC Solutions	Manager training	group	\$1,125.00
Compumaster	Managing emotions seminar	1	\$180.91
ConnorCourt	Managing lobbyists seminar	1	\$31.82
APSC	Marketing yourself into an EL position	2	\$2,263.64
Skillpath	Mastering outlook	1	\$159.00
Dimension data	McSharePoint	2	\$8,160.00
Sustainable Resources Industry Training	MDB Groundwater	1	\$1,200.00
Dimension data	Microsoft exchange server 2010 training	1	\$2,890.00
Wizard corporate training	Microsoft Project Training	1	\$709.09

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
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Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Training program</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Costs</b>
APSC	Minute taking skills	1	\$577.27
CIT	Minute taking skills	1	\$136.36
Wizard corporate training	Modelling and manipulating data	1	\$262.73
Wizard corporate training	MSproject training	3	\$936.00
Australian Society for fish biology	National conference and climate change symposium	2	\$1,009.09
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	OAIC and FOI reforms	6	\$354.55
ARSPC	Object based image analysis	1	\$136.36
Edmore Pty Ltd	Online induction	all new starters	\$28,690.00
ATO	Payroll tax seminar	1	\$126.36
Australia wide taxation and payroll training	Payroll training course	2	\$790.91
Pro-Fit Corporate Health Pty Ltd	Peak performance and personal resilience	group	\$850.00
Stacey Barr Pty Ltd	Performance Measure Blueprint workshop	2	\$3,060.00
Wizard corporate training	Photo shop training	8	\$4,854.55
IAP2 Australasians	Planning for effective public participation	4	\$4,290.91
Dimension data	Play, deploy & Manage SCCM course	1	\$5,780.00
TP3 Pty Ltd	Policies, procedures and documentation	1	\$1,400.00
APSC	Policy formulation and advice	2	\$2,263.64
Wizard corporate training	Powerpoint course	1	\$295.45
ICMS Meetings Pty Ltd	Practical responses to climate change conference	1	\$1,081.82
Twyfold consulting	Presentation skills	6	\$2,414.98
Australian Marketing Institute	Principles of marketing	1	\$854.55
Australian Marketing Institute	Principles of Public relations	1	\$854.55
Blake Dawson	Privacy and FOI training	all staff	\$3,429.00
learning networks	Procurement training	4	\$4,950.00
Acorn training and consulting	Productive IT outlook	1	\$450.00
APSC	Professional course	1	\$577.27
FMRC	Professional development course	1	\$1,363.64
APSC	Project management	1	\$1,131.82
University of Canberra	Project management	1	\$908.18
Australian College of Project Management	Project management fundamentals	1	\$909.09
CPA Australia	Public sector update seminar	2	\$63.64
APSC	Questions on Notice and Question Time Briefs	1	\$577.27
ARINEX	Remote sensing conference	2	\$1,950.00

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Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Training program</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Costs</b>
ANU	Research to support policy	1	\$2,500.00
Risk Mangement Institute	Risk management	1	\$227.27
Workplace research	Selection advisory committee training	154	\$45,576.87
Expand training	Self confidence	3	\$190.92
ATO	Seminar payroll	2	\$445.45
APSC	Senate Estimate Briefs	1	\$577.27
Dimension data	Server 2008 training	2	\$5,440.00
APSC	SES Breakfast	4	\$418.20
APSC	SES Orientation	4	\$9,090.92
APSC	Shaping strategic thought	2	\$1,154.54
Australian river	Sharing Water knowledge forum	1	\$500.00
CEO Training Pty Ltd	Silverlight 3 development course	group	\$5,220.00
Compumaster	Skillpath	1	\$631.82
Hannover Fairs	spatial@govR Conference 2010	1	\$906.40
Hands on Technology Transfer, Inc	SQL programming	1	\$3,116.31
APSC	Strategic Thinking	6	\$3,463.62
APSC	Supervising graduates	1	\$577.27
Econect Communication	Sydney Science communication planning workshop	1	\$680.00
CCH Aust.	Tax, FBT, GST CCH books	1	\$391.84
Margaret Darcy	Team building workshop	group	\$10,054.18
Conference Logistics	The Australian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network 2010 conference	2	\$1,445.46
Australian Institute of Company Directors	The Board and the company secretary	1	\$372.73
AIM	Thinking on your feet	1	\$890.91
Berrico Consultants	Thinking on your feet	2	\$1,371.00
AIM	Time Management Skills	1	\$904.55
APSC	Training for MDBA board	1	\$577.27
Etisym Pty Ltd	Trim conference	3	\$1,800.00
Wizard corporate training	VBA Programming	1	\$709.09
CEO Training Pty Ltd	Visual Studio training	1	\$3,400.00
Legalwise Seminars Pty Ltd	Water Law seminar	4	\$2,390.90
IRR conferences	Water Pricing conference	1	\$2,695.00
Events worldwide Pty Ltd	Women in climate change forum	1	\$103.00
Wizard corporate training	Word - advanced	2	\$616.36
Wizard corporate training	Word biz tools	1	\$318.18
Wizard corporate training	Word course	1	\$295.45
Wizard corporate training	Word intermediate	2	\$561.82
Skillpath	Word training course	1	\$136.27

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
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Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Training program</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Comcare	Work for Health forum	1	\$81.82
Gavan Podbury Consulting Pty Ltd	Working with difficult personalities	1	\$600.00
Trybooking	Working with difficult personalities	2	\$1,200.00
Writing clear science	Writing clear science	8	\$3,981.81
Words that work	Writing course	1	\$1,700.00

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
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Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011

**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA

**Question No:** 130

**Topic:** MDBA - Advertising

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Please detail all advertising expenditure in financial year 2010-11 by campaign, including the campaign's purpose, total cost (including campaign research and design) and media (i.e. print, radio, TV etc) involved. In each case, if the campaign was part of a broader strategy, what other communications activities were undertaken and at what cost? Please provide a similar breakdown on budgeted future spending.

**Answer:**

1. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority did not undertake any campaign advertising in 2010-11.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
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Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011

**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA

**Question No:** 131

**Topic:** MDBA - External  
fees/consultants

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Please provide a breakdown by category (e.g. legal advice) of total costs paid to external consultants. For all payments in excess of \$10,000, please itemise and detail the name of the consultant, work undertaken and the total payments made to the consultant.

**Answer:**

1. Total cost paid to external consultants during the financial year 2010-11 was \$ 10,043,643 as detailed below:

<b>Category</b>	<b>\$ (inc. GST)</b>
Program Management	7,966,273
Policy	746,994
Corporate management	600,572
Legal Advice	729,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,043,643</b>

Payment to external consultants in excess of \$10,000 during the financial year 2010-11 was \$9,612,016 and further detail is provided at **Attachment A**.

		Attachment A
Payment to external consultants in excess of \$10,000 during the financial year 2010-11		
Consultants	Work undertaken	Total payment made (inc GST) \$
Adrian Rizza	Advice related to Basin Plans	116,080
Alluvium Consulting Pty Ltd	Advice and assistance for consultation on, and finalisation of, the proposed Basin Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Program	284,346
Australian Government Solicitor	Legal advice to the Basin Plan	10,808
Australian Government Solicitor	Legal advice to the Basin Plan	33,989
Australian Government Solicitor	Legal advice to the Basin Plan	292,187
Australian Government Solicitor	Legal advice to the River Murray	20,642
Australian Government Solicitor	Legal advice to the Basin Plan	51,998
Australian Water Environments Pty Ltd	Legal advice to the River Murray	73,789
Ballard Consulting	Technical advice on water trade and water accounting matters	26,731
Blake Dawson	Provision of specialist legal advice	76,196
Centre for International Economics	Cost/benefit analysis of the introduction of Sustainable Diversion Limits in the Murray-Darling Basin	203,692
Chris Guest Pty Ltd	Strategic policy advice on the finalisation of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's jurisdiction engagement strategy	15,515
Colin Pardoe	Lake Victoria Scientific Reference Panel - Independent Member	10,594
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Groundwater Assessments for the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Plan Stage 2	313,504
CSIRO	Multiple benefits study of the Proposed Basin Plan	300,000
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Audit of interstate allocation and entitlement transfers under Schedule D of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10	57,750
Department of Services & Technology	Development of Operational Models and Associated Works for Koondrook-Perricoota Forest	27,346
Department of Services Technology and Administration	Development of Operational Models and associated Works for Koondrook-Perricoota Forest	22,414
Don Woolley	Peer review of environmental matters associated with the Basin Plan	11,300
Dr Jane Roberts	Lake Victoria Scientific Reference Panel Independent Member	13,556
Ecological Australia Pty Ltd	Calibration of LiDAR outputs against ground data	20,185
Feltar Pty Ltd	Assessment of local impacts of proposals for the Murray-Darling Basin Plan	2,225,045
Flinders University	Expert advice into the MDBA project on flood recession salt mobilisation from floodplains of River Murray	23,630
Freshwater Systems	Independent Sustainable Rivers Audit Group (ISRAG) - Chair	177,220
Frontier Economics Pty Ltd	Peer review of the cost benefit analysis of the Basin Plan	38,412
Futureye Pty Ltd	Basin Plan regional meeting strategy for response to public comment	70,000
Gecko Consulting Pty Ltd	IT consultancy services	31,658
Gecko consulting Pty Ltd	Assist the Authority to ensure that its responses to the publication of the Guide to the Basin Plan, the consultation process and the management of 'Basin data' are carried out according to leading practice.	100,213
GHD Pty Ltd	Assistance with the development of the Proposed Basin Plan and the role of works and measures in the delivery of environmental water	208,886
Griffith Enterprise	Advisor to the National Cultural Flows Planning and Research Committee	18,085
Hassall & Associates Pty Ltd	The process of obtaining easements to deal with the impacts of releases of up to Full Regulated Flow on agricultural holdings on the Murray River floodplain between Hume Dam and lake Mulwala	14,265
Heritage Computing	Peer review of environmental matters associated with the Basin Plan	24,970
Heritage Computing	Basin Salinity Management Strategy Annual Audit	36,949
Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd	Proposed Salt-load to the Sea Target	20,295
Invasive Animals Ltd	Ensuring effective uptake of IACRC products and strategies - Freshwater Pest Fish Forums	70,000
Jane Morton McGregor Roberts	Audit services to the Independent Sustainable Rivers Audit Group (ISRAG)	116,008
Jim Barrett Consulting	Services to draft materials for pest fish planning documents	22,000
John Hillier	Peer review of environmental matters associated with the Basin Plan	24,057
KPMG	Advisory services to support the release of Basin Plan documentation	133,067
KPMG	Role of social and economic considerations and the way in which they can be integrated with the development of Sustainable Diversion Limits	213,543
KPMG	Internal Audit, Risk Management and Financial Advice	42,825
Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd	Provision of expert advice and consultancy services in support of the Water Quality Advisory Panel and overall Water Quality Monitoring Program - 2010/11	19,108
Lovett Clarke Consulting Pty Ltd	Provision of consultancy services individually and as a member of the Expert Panel on Risks to Water Resources of the Murray-Darling Basin	11,121
Mackellar Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Planning advice on appropriate resources to implement the Environmental Watering Plan with consideration of other MDBA environmental watering arrangements	19,800

<b>Payment to external consultants in excess of \$10,000 during the financial year 2010-11</b>		
<b>Consultants</b>	<b>Work undertaken</b>	<b>Total payment made (inc GST) \$</b>
Mackellar Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Provision of consultancy services individually and as a member of the Expert Panel on Risks to Water Resources of the Murray-Darling Basin	26,400
Matthew Barwick	Specialist consultancy services for the Native Fish Strategy	22,000
MDFRC Pty Limited	Services to analyse the available phytoplankton dataset and to provide information for the strategic management and monitoring of Phytoplankton in the River Murray.	59,600
Michael Stewardson	Audit services to the Independent Sustainable Rivers Audit Group (ISRAG)	116,119
Minter Ellison	Provision of specialist legal advice	12,552
Minter Ellison	Provision of specialist legal advice	15,917
Minter Ellison	Provision of specialist legal advice	117,273
Monash University	Modelling the short-term socioeconomic implications of the introduction of Sustainable Diversion Limited on the Murray-Darling Basin	60,000
Moroka Pty Ltd	Audit of water recovery measures in the Living Murray (TLM) Independent Auditor	17,823
Mr. Gerald Grealish	Consolidation, Analysis, Interpretation and Assessment of Phase 1 detailed assessment data at 62 wetlands below Lock 1, South Australia	55,000
Neilson Associates Pty Ltd	Member of proposed Basin Plan Development Working Group	95,850
Nous Group Pty Ltd	Integration of socio-economic assessments of the Basin Plan	49,371
numbersman.com.au	Biometrician services for the Sustainable Rivers Audit Report 2	48,087
Peter D Jackson	Consultancy support services to the Native Fish Program	91,892
RMCG	Environmental Watering Salinity Accountability Case Study	45,300
Roger J Shaw	Basin Salinity Management Strategy Annual Audit	26,308
Roger Wickes Project Services Trust	Basin Salinity Management Strategy Annual Audit	43,025
Saltbush Consulting Pty Ltd	Unix and ICT Security Services	35,805
Sefton & Associates Pty Ltd	Scoping of future Native Fish Strategy communication and engagement activities	11,000
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Synthesizing three major hydrology assessment components for the hydrology theme	85,608
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Hume Dam Extreme Flood Operations Manual - Hydrological Modelling	37,274
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Strategic programs review of joint programs in the Murray-Darling Basin Authority	466,327
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Water quality modelling framework for the Murray-Darling Basin - scoping study	54,945
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Independent Peer Review of the Berri-Renmark and Pyap to Kingston groundwater models	29,750
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Barmah Choke Study - Preferred Option Development	217,459
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Assessment of the hydrological impacts of unregulated farms dams in the Murray-Darling Basin	267,744
Terranean Mapping Technologies Pty Ltd	Murray-Darling Basin Remote Sensing Data Acquisition	1,550,634
The University of Melbourne	Assessing thresholds of Ecological Change	20,000
Tobias and Associates	Use and occupancy mapping program, Gwamu (Kooma) Living Proof Interviews	51,594
University of New England	Audit services to the Independent Sustainable Rivers Audit Group (ISRAG) member	188,624
University of New South Wales	Peer review of environmental matters associated with the Basin Plan	25,000
Winning Consultants Pty Ltd	Enhancements to the Project registration and Reporting System	23,958
<b>Total payment to external consultants in excess of \$10,000 during the financial year 2010-11</b>		<b>9,612,016</b>

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Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011

**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA

**Question No:** 132

**Topic:** MDBA - Conferences

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Please detail any overseas international conferences partly or fully funded by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in financial year 2010-11.

For each conference fully funded please identify:

- (a) the venue;
- (b) the reason for each conference;
- (c) the number of registered participants;
- (d) whether consultancy fees were paid for organisation of the conference;
- (e) to whom were any consultancy fees paid; and
- (f) the cost of each consultancy?

**Answer:**

1. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority did not fund, either partly or fully, any overseas international conferences in 2010-11.

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Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011

**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: MDBA

**Question No:** 133

**Topic:** MDBA - Freedom of Information

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

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. For both calendar year 2011 to date and financial year 2010-11, how many Freedom of Information applications have been received? Please provide breakdowns of the numbers of applications granted in full, granted in part, refused, withdrawn and still being processed. For those withdrawn, please provide a further breakdown indicating whether the application was withdrawn before or after the applicant was notified of estimated costs.

**Answer:**

1. The breakdown of Freedom of Information requests to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority is as follows:

<b>Period</b>	<b>No Received in the period</b>	<b>Granted in full</b>	<b>Granted in part</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>	<b>Documents publicly available</b>	<b>Closed – no response from applicant</b>	<b>Still being processed</b>
<b>1 Jan 2011 to 31 Oct 2011</b>	<b>19</b>	2	7	2	0	3	1	4
<b>2010-11</b>	<b>23</b>	2	13	4	0	1	3	0