

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 35**

**Program No. Corporate**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Taxi Costs**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

- a) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from 7 September 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
- b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

**Answer:**

- a) The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources to rectify.

For the period 1 September 2013 to 31 October 2013, total departmental expense on taxis was \$50,398 (GST excl). The Department does not record taxi expense data in a way that would readily allow individual business groups to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

- b) The use of taxis is assessed on a needs basis and is subject to the same value for money considerations as all other travel undertaken by departmental staff.