

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2009

<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	168
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	Urban Water Pricing		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	125 (24/2/09)		

**Senator Fisher asked:**

**Senator FISHER**—Thank you. Your commission publishes some occasional papers and I am looking at one published in July last year entitled *Approaches to urban water pricing*.

...

**Senator FISHER**—Did you have a position paper for this one? Are you aware? I do not have one if you did have. You might take that on notice.

**Mr Matthews**—I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Commission's *Waterlines* papers are a series of occasional papers designed to explore contemporary issues in water reform. The Commission's aim in publishing these papers is to prompt further discussion and exploration of the issues raised in the paper. The *Waterlines* papers do not necessarily represent the views of the Commission or Government.

While not all *Waterlines* papers are accompanied by a National Water Commission position statement, the Commission did publish a position statement on urban water pricing to accompany the *Waterlines* report: *Approaches to urban water pricing*.

The Commission's position statement on urban water pricing is attached.

Both the Commission's position statement on urban water pricing and the *Waterlines* report: *Approaches to urban water pricing* were released on 23 July 2008.

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### Urban water pricing National Water Commission position

The prospect of rising water demands in urban areas due to population growth, coupled with declining water availability in many of our cities, highlights the need for a well planned, efficient, sustainable and responsive urban water sector.

Urban water reform has become more urgent since the 2004 signing of the National Water Initiative (NWI), with the need to secure water supplies for Australia's towns and cities now recognised as a critical national challenge.

The National Water Commission has therefore recommended that COAG commit to a supplementary reform agenda to lift the standard of urban water management across Australia.

Continuing metropolitan water restrictions underline the need to ensure reliable urban water supplies and restore public confidence in the security of their supply. The Commission regards long-term temporary water restrictions as an inequitable and inefficient way of balancing supply and demand<sup>1</sup>. While demand management certainly has an important part to play, the Commission considers improved supply to be critical to delivering secure, sustainable urban water into the future.

Improved water pricing is central to urban water reform. Water prices convey important signals to customers and signal the viability of investment in new sources of supply. Getting urban water charging right is therefore critical to ensuring that water is used wisely and that new sources of water supply are brought on line in a timely fashion.

#### Urban water pricing reform and the National Water Initiative

Under the NWI, all states and territories made a number of explicit commitments in relation to urban water management. These commitments included improving pricing for metropolitan water as well as:

- providing healthy, safe and reliable water supplies.
- increasing water use efficiency.
- encouraging the re-use and recycling of wastewater where cost-effective.
- facilitating water trading between and within the urban and rural sectors.
- encouraging innovation in water supply sourcing, treatment, storage and discharge.

#### Progress in urban reform

In its 2007 Biennial Assessment and 2008 COAG Update Report on progress in water reform, the Commission found that reasonable progress is being made against urban water reforms in the NWI, but that in retrospect, NWI provisions for urban water were insufficiently challenging. Urgent action is required to tackle urban planning, pricing, market and institutional reforms.

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<sup>1</sup> In this context, long-term temporary water restrictions are distinct from permanent water conservation measures.

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### **Future reform priorities**

The Commission has identified additional areas for policy reform for improving urban water pricing and institutional arrangements. These extend beyond the actions originally specified under the NWI.

#### Stronger independent pricing oversight

- Some states must introduce stronger independent pricing oversight to ensure that approaches to setting charges are technically sound and fully consistent with NWI principles.

#### More transparent pricing

- Some states must further improve transparency in water charging. The Commission recommends that, to improve transparency, some governments and economic regulators seek to employ more effective public engagement processes when making pricing decisions.

#### Greater use of scarcity pricing

- The Commission supports further consideration of scarcity pricing in urban areas on the basis that scarcity pricing may be a more efficient way of balancing supply and demand and could significantly reduce the need for water restrictions<sup>2</sup>.

#### Improved pricing for new water sources

- Urgent progress is required to improve pricing policies for recycled water and stormwater. Consistent with NWI commitments, pricing policies for recycled water and stormwater should be congruent with pricing policies for drinking water so as to stimulate efficient water use regardless of the source. Recycled water and stormwater re-use schemes need to be considered in a system-wide context and prices should reflect externalities and avoided or deferred costs. Prices for recycled water and stormwater should reflect underlying cost differences associated with providing products of different quality and fit for a range of different uses.

#### End of inclining block tariffs

- Two-part, inclining block tariffs are commonly used in the urban water sector across Australia. A two-part tariff is made up of a fixed (service availability) charge and a variable (usage-based) charge. In most jurisdictions, two or more blocks or tiers (up to eleven) are incorporated into the variable charge levied on residential users so that the variable component of the charge increases as water consumption exceeds these pre-determined blocks or thresholds. This tariff structure is commonly referred to as an inclining block tariff.
- Inclining block tariffs are inequitable as they disadvantage households with larger numbers. They are also not very effective in influencing consumption as the cost impact of reaching higher tiers is often not evident until well

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<sup>2</sup> Much like prices for other goods and services, under a scarcity pricing approach, the variable component of the water charge would be more responsive and vary inversely with available supply. As water availability falls and water becomes more scarce, the variable component of the charge would rise to reflect the increasing 'scarcity value'. The Commission recognises that desalination options may reduce or alleviate supply scarcity.

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after the event; particularly where billing is infrequent. Inclining block tariffs often result in a departure from marginal cost pricing. The Commission therefore considers a two-part tariff with a single variable charge to be a more efficient and equitable tariff structure, and one which is simpler for customers to understand and respond to.

#### Using more direct instruments than water charges to pursue equity objectives

- Recognising that increasing water charges may lead to higher water bills for some businesses and households, the Commission acknowledges the prerogative of governments to offer some form of relief for targeted consumer groups. However, the Commission encourages governments to explore the feasibility of using more direct and less distortionary measures, rather than suppressing water charges, to address any substantial equity issues<sup>3</sup>.

#### Improved metering and billing

- Improving metering and billing practices in urban centres will provide better information to consumers and facilitate better responses to pricing policies. The Commission encourages governments to consider 'smart metering' of households and individual metering of medium and high-density dwellings<sup>4</sup>. There may be opportunities for the water industry to capitalise on recent developments on smart metering in the energy sector. Further reform is required in some states to ensure that a water usage charge is levied directly on users. Tenants, for the most part, are not currently billed or provided information on their water usage.

#### More transparent security of supply

- Decisions to invest in urban water infrastructure involve trade-offs between cost and reliability of supply. The Commission recommends that levels of urban water security be more clearly articulated in plans and that governments explore the feasibility of a national minimum reliability benchmark for water supply in major centres, specifying expected frequency and severity of water restrictions. The Commission recommends that the minimum reliability benchmark be developed in consultation with the community.

#### Further institutional reform

- Institutional reform in the water sector has not kept pace with other sectors such as telecommunications, electricity, gas and ports. Institutional arrangements in the water sector should be reviewed to provide greater opportunity for private sector investment and innovation. Regulatory reforms, including price-setting, allocation and tradability of bulk water resource access rights and third-party access to natural monopoly

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<sup>3</sup> Increases in water charges need to be put in perspective; in 2003-04 the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that the cost of water charges made up only 0.7 per cent of average annual household expenditure.

<sup>4</sup> Smart meters are able to be read remotely and allow for real time, continuous water consumption data to be collected. Collecting this data can support 'time of use billing' and opens up a range of alternate pricing approaches including peak/off-peak pricing. Analysing the consumption data can identify system inefficiencies such as leaks and allows customers to see a detailed break-down of their consumption patterns through time.

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infrastructure<sup>5</sup>, have the potential to promote more efficient resource use and greater choice in water services and water products.

### More competition

- The Commission's view is that structural reform of the urban water sector would provide opportunities to ensure competitive pressure is brought to bear where it makes sense to do so (e.g. in sourcing water at the wholesale level and at the retail supply level).

### Continued structural reform

- All urban water providers should be adequately resourced and capable of providing a healthy, safe and reliable supply of water to customers. Where the lack of financial and technical resources available to small (typically local government) water providers is compromising the quality of service provision, this problem must be addressed urgently.

The National Water Commission is supporting efforts to advance urban water pricing and institutional reforms and has released the accompanying Waterlines publication in the interests of highlighting alternative institutional and water charging options.

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<sup>5</sup> A natural monopoly exists where a single provider can deliver a product or service at a lower cost than two or more providers could. Natural monopolies typically exist in utility industries where there is a high proportion of fixed costs.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	169
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC – Efficiency Dividend		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. How has the Commission implemented the one-off two per cent efficiency dividend (ED)?
2. Where have savings been achieved – i.e. which programs/resources have been cut?
3. Has the Commission had to reduce any activities that it considers to be ‘core business’ or has it had to reduce service standards as a result of the ED?

**Answers:**

1. The Commission has implemented the one-off two percent efficiency dividend through a combination of a reduction in program activity and the introduction of a number of productivity measures.
2. Savings have been achieved in departmental costs by such means as implementing teleconferencing instead of attending meetings interstate, changing outsourced arrangements for information technology support, and combining project meetings with the same recipient where there is more than one project involved.
3. The Commission has had to take a different approach from the way it prefers to conduct its business activity but does not believe this will significantly affect the management of its projects.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	170
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC - Staffing		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what level?
2. Are there any plans for staff reductions? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
3. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? Are such employment programs being reduced? If so, by how many and has the Commission done an analysis on long term effect on retention and attrition?
4. Has the Commission's consultancy expenditure increased due to reduced staffing?

**Answers:**

1. No.
2. No.
3. The Commission, because of its small size, does not have a graduate program.
4. No.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	171
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC - Appropriation		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Noting the Government's *Federal Financial Relations Bill 2009*, which appropriates money to Treasury to pass on to the States;

- Does the Commission receive any appropriations that will be transferred to the Treasury Dept?
- What are these?

**Answers:**

The Commission does not receive appropriations that will be transferred to the Department of the Treasury to pass on to the States.



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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	172
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC - Resources		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Does the Commission have enough analytical resources at its disposal? For example, the Government has cut funding to the ABS – is the Commission provided with enough data collection for evidence-based policy making and evaluation?
2. Did the Commission use any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure in 2007-08?
3. Has the Commission used any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure this year?
4. Has any depreciation funding been used for purposes other than the replacement of capital items in 2007-08?
5. How much has the Commission spent on the replacement of capital items in the first six months of 2008-09?

**Answers:**

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. No.
4. No.
5. \$27,074.27

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	173
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC – Stimulus Package		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Does the Commission have any involvement in measures announced as part of the \$42 billion budget stimulus package?
2. If so, was (and when was) the Commission asked for input before the stimulus package was announced?
3. When did the Commission know details about the stimulus package affecting its portfolio?

**Answers:**

1. No
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable

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**Outcome:** 3 **Question No:** 174  
**Output:** 3.1  
**Division/Agency:** National Water Commission  
**Topic:** NWC - Staffing  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

### Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the current total staffing for the Commission – permanent and temporary?
2. What was the total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing level for the Commission on 1 July 2008?
3. How many permanent staff were recruited in calendar year (CY) 2008 and in financial year (FY) 2008-09 to date? What level are these staff?
4. How many temporary positions exist or have been created in CY 2008 and in FY 2008-09 to date?
5. For CY 2008 and FY 2008-09 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

### Answers:

1. As at 13 March 2009 the Commission had 33 ongoing (permanent) employees and 15 non-ongoing (temporary) employees.

2. 41.47

3. Ongoing (permanent) employees recruited during:

Classification Level	(CY) 2008	FY 1/7/2008 to 13/3/2009
APS Level 6		1
Executive Level 1	1	1
Executive Level 2	1	
SES Band 1	1	
Total	3	2

4. CY 2008: 4 non-ongoing (temporary) positions  
FY 2008-09: 4 non-ongoing (temporary) positions
5. CY 2008: 10 non-ongoing (temporary) employees  
13.11 months  
FY 2008-09: 15 non-ongoing (temporary) employees  
11.03 months

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	175
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC - Underspending		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Which programs are currently tracking for an underspend this financial year?
2. How many of the Commission's funding programs/budget measures lapse this Financial Year and what are they?

**Answers:**

1. The Raising National Water Standards Program is unlikely to meet its expenditure target in 2008-09. It should be noted that the program is managed through the Australian Water Fund Account and unspent moneys will be retained in this special account for expenditure in future years.
2. No measures lapse this financial year.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	176
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC – Gershon Review		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. What impact will the Gershon Review have on the Commission?
2. How much money will be saved?
3. Will the Commission be required to return any money to Budget for 2009-10?

**Answers:**

1. The Gershon Review had minimal impact on the Commission due to relatively low amount spent on Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
2. The Commission is not expecting any savings.
3. The Commission will not be required to return any money to Budget for 2009-10.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	177
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC – Media Monitoring		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. How much was spent on media monitoring in CY 2008?
2. How much has been spent on media monitoring in FY 2008-09 to date?
3. How many staff in the Commission are employed for media related duties?

**Answers:**

1. \$117 489.52
2. \$83 566.57
3. Two staff members are employed in public affairs activities that include media and issues management. The staff also undertake a range of other duties.

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**Outcome:** 3 **Question No:** 178  
**Output:** 3.1  
**Division/Agency:** National Water Commission  
**Topic:** NWC – Government Advertising  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

### Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What communications programs has the Commission undertaken, or is planning to undertake?
2. For each program, what is the total spend? Please detail including media advertisements (where placed and costs).
3. What was the total spend on advertising by the Commission in CY 2008 and for FY 2008/09 to date?

### Answers:

1. The Commission has not undertaken any specific advertising or communications programs aimed at communicating key messages to the public. As part of its day to day activities the Commission has in place a Communications strategy which guides the release of information on Commission activities including funded projects and water reform to key stakeholders. The costs associated with releasing information on these activities are part of the Commission's normal operating budget.
2. The Commission has not placed any corporate advertising this financial year.
3. Total Advertising Expenditure

Activity	CY 2008	FY 2008-09
General information advertising	\$28 043.24	\$4 625.52
Recruitment advertising	\$34,520.32	\$8,519.52
Total	\$62 563.56	\$13 145.04

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**Outcome:** 3 **Question No:** 179  
**Output:** 3.1  
**Division/Agency:** National Water Commission  
**Topic:** NWC - Hospitality  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

### Senator Birmingham asked:

What is the Commission's hospitality spend for CY 2008 and for FY 2008/09 to date?  
Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

### Answers:

Commission expenditure on hospitality is set out in the tables below.

#### Calendar Year 2008

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost of event (\$)
30/01/2008	Canberra	Stakeholder meeting working lunch	736.36
27/02/2008	Canberra	Stakeholder meeting working lunch	445.15
10/04/2008	Canberra	GTAC Meeting 02/2008 working dinner	1,399.09
20/06/2008	Canberra	Young Water Experts working lunch	238.12
30/06/2008	Canberra	Commissioner and invited guests working dinner	1,547.27
30/06/2008	Canberra	Water Indigenous Alliance conference working lunch	2,102.73
7/07/2008	Canberra	GTAC Meeting 03/08 Working Dinner	860.45
29/08/2008	Brisbane	Aquatic Ecosystem Advisory Group Dinner	403.64
31/08/2008	Canberra	Commissioner working dinner	466.82
11/09/2008	Melbourne	Working Lunch with DPI of Victoria representatives	44.77
16/09/2008	Canberra	Working lunch with Director of the International Water Management	80.45
18/09/2008	Canberra	Impacts of Trade Study Consultation working lunch	70.18
20/10/2008	Adelaide	GTAC Meeting working dinner	800.00
20/10/2008	Adelaide	GTAC Meeting 04/2008 working lunch	251.00
20-21/10/08	Adelaide	GTAC Meeting 04/2008 working breakfast	217.27
10/11/2008	Adelaide	Indigenous Project Steering Committee Working Dinner	131.45
16/12/2008	Canberra	Commissioner Working Dinner	909.09
16/12/2008	Melbourne	National Groundwater Workshop working lunch	1,155.32
<b>Total of Hospitality Spend for 2008 CY</b>			<b>11,859.16</b>



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### Financial Year 2008/09 (to 28/2/2009)

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost of event (\$)
7/07/2008	Canberra	GTAC Meeting 03/08 Working Dinner	860.45
29/08/2008	Brisbane	Aquatic Ecosystem Advisory Group Dinner	403.64
31/08/2008	Canberra	Commissioner working dinner	466.82
11/09/2008	Melbourne	Working Lunch with DPI of Victoria representatives	44.77
16/09/2008	Canberra	Working lunch with Director of the International Water Management	80.45
18/09/2008	Canberra	Impacts of Trade Study Consultation working lunch	70.18
20/10/2008	Adelaide	GTAC Meeting working dinner	800.00
20/10/2008	Adelaide	GTAC Meeting 04/2008 working lunch	251.00
20-21/10/08	Adelaide	GTAC Meeting 04/2008 working breakfast	217.27
10/11/2008	Adelaide	Indigenous Project Steering Committee Working Dinner	131.45
16/12/2008	Canberra	Commissioner Working Dinner	909.09
16/12/2008	Melbourne	National Groundwater Workshop working lunch	1,155.32
4/02/2009	Canberra	Commissioner working dinner	656.36
5/02/2009	Canberra	Commissioner & staff planning day refreshments	610.91
<b>Total of Hospitality Spend for 2008/09 FY</b>			<b>6,657.71</b>

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	180
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC - Appointments		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. What is the gender ratio on each board across the portfolio, and what is the total ratio across the portfolio?
2. In which states/territories do these Board members reside?

**Answers:**

1. The gender ratio for the National Water Commissioners is 43% female:57% male.
2. Mr Ken Matthews - Australian Capital Territory, Ms Chloe Munro, Ms Sally Farrier, and Mr Lawrence Arthur - Victoria, Mr Chris Davis - New South Wales, Ms Elaine Gardiner - Northern Territory, and Professor Stuart Bunn - Queensland.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	3	<b>Question No:</b>	181
<b>Output:</b>	3.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	National Water Commission		
<b>Topic:</b>	NWC – FOI Requests		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Has the Commission received any advice on how to respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Commission received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

**Answers:**

1. During the 2007/08 financial year the National Water Commission has not received any advice on how to respond to Freedom of Information requests.
2. During the 2007/08 financial year no Freedom of Information requests were received.
3. Not applicable
4. Not applicable

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**Outcome:** 3 **Question No:** 182  
**Output:** 3.1  
**Division/Agency:** National Water Commission  
**Topic:** NWC - Consultancies  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

### Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007?
2. Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the consultancy, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies.
3. How many consultancies are planned or budgeted for this calendar year?
4. Have these been published in the Commission's Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website? If not, why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

### Answers:

1. There have been 31 consultancies undertaken or underway since November 2007.
2. The following list shows the Consultancies undertaken by the Commission

Date	Consultant name	Description	Contract price (\$)	Selection process
16/01/2008	Grosvenor Consulting	NWC Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan Assessment	26,207	Select Tender
19/05/2008	Morpheus	Design for NWC Website	13,305	Select Tender
27/05/2008	InFront Systems	NWC Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan 2008-10	22,000	Direct Sourcing
29/11/2007	Workplace Research Associates	Review of Performance Pay Scheme	19,360	Direct Sourcing
19/12/2007	Dept Natural Resources, Environment & Arts	Northern Territory Strategic Assessment and Management of priority/stressed Groundwater catchments projects	400,000	Direct sourcing

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Consultant name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contract price (\$)</b>	<b>Selection process</b>
20/01/2008	GHD Pty Ltd	Develop National Guidelines for Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)	10,800	Panel
26/06/2008	Land & Water Australia	RNWS Development and implementation of the Framework for the Assessment of River and Wetland Health (FARWH) to rivers of northern Australia	1,900,000	Select Tender
30/06/2008	ACIL	Study on Water Availability and Electricity Generation	150,555	Panel
1/07/2008	Geoscience Australia	Collection of field data for Airborne Electro Magnetic (AEM) and interpreting hydrogeology	480,000	Direct sourcing
1/07/2008	Department of Water WA	Satisfactory completion of project milestone Development of the Framework for the Assessment of River and Wetland Health (FARWH) WA	1,200,000	Select Tender
23/07/2008	Sinclair Knight Merz	Baseline review of activities that intercept surface and groundwater	497,091	Open Tender
23/07/2008	Allen Consulting Group	Inaugural NWC Annual National Water Markets Report- Phases 2 and 3	144,545	Select Tender
1/09/2008	GHD Pty Ltd	Groundwater Bore Deterioration and Schemes to Alleviate Rehabilitation Costs Project	99,780	Select Tender
1/09/2008	Arup Pty Ltd	Develop a risk analysis of potable water supplies in remote Indigenous communities and to develop a companion tool	505,750	Open Tender
12/09/2008	GHD Pty Ltd	Services related to investigation into feasibility of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) schemes	99,980	Direct sourcing
30/09/2008	Instinct and Reason	Situation Analysis scoping study - Groundwater knowledge and Capacity Building	39,500	Select Tender

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Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2009

<b>Date</b>	<b>Consultant name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contract price (\$)</b>	<b>Selection process</b>
1/10/2008	Sinclair Knight Merz	Case studies of sustainable levels of extraction and Groundwater dependant ecosystems	280,000	Select Tender
23/10/2008	Sinclair Knight Merz	Preliminary Feasibility Assessment Planning Studies for Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) in Urban Cities and towns of Australia	135,289	Select Tender
10/11/2008	CSIRO	Murray-Darling Basin Water Assessment -	895,000	Direct sourcing
16/12/2008	Australian National University	Indigenous Water Planning Forum- Identification of allocated water for Indigenous commercial use	21,000	Direct sourcing
20/12/2008	Australian Water Association	Establish a Community of Practice to enable Environmental water managers to more effectively carry out their responsibilities.	332,695	Open tender
22/12/2008	Sinclair Knight Merz	Environmental Water Management Workshop	28,188	Direct sourcing
22/12/2008	CSIRO Corporate Finance	Indigenous Water Planning Forum- National stocktake of allocated water to indigenous users	32,040	Direct sourcing
1/11/2009	Sinclair Knight Merz	Potential Local and Cumulative Impacts of Mining on Groundwater Resources	1,800,000	Open Tender
23/01/2008	University of Tasmania	Review of the importance of headwater streams	19,673	Select Tender
24/12/2008	Hamstead Consulting	Review of NWI partners progress in meeting their NWI commitments in the areas of water planning and surface and groundwater resource management paper for the Biennial 2009 report.	16,800	Direct Sourcing
7/01/2009	Bligh Tanner Consultants	Urban Water Planning Stocktake - Biennial Assessment 2009	35,000	Select Tender

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts**

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7/01/2009	LawLab	Review of Commonwealth, state and territory legislation	64,950	Direct Sourcing
8/12/2008	Stephen Saunders	Improving enforcement and compliance in the rural water sector	13,636	Direct Sourcing
12/01/2009	Hyder Consulting	The transaction costs of water trade for the 2009 Biennial Assessment	14,790	Select Tender

3. The information on the number of consultancies planned or budgeted for the CY is not available.
4. These consultancies have all been published on AusTender. They were not included in the procurement plan as the majority of the consultancies relate to Commissioned Activities undertaken through the Administered function and are not known prior to the work being scoped and approved.