

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and The Arts
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	3	Question No:	125
Program:	3.1		
Division/Agency:	Australian Antarctic Division		
Topic:	AAD – Budget Spent in Tasmania		
Hansard Page ECA:	73 (27/05/09)		

Senator WORTLEY asked:

Senator WORTLEY—Senator Bilyk has also asked me to ask you whether you are able to give a breakdown of the various areas and tell us how broad the geographical area covering these people is. She says that the employment is not just in science and research but also in other areas. I am happy for you to take that on notice.

Dr Wooding—We will do what we can. Some of those figures come from the state government. We will see what we can find out for you.

Answer:

An accurate breakdown of the Australian Antarctic Division's expenditure in Tasmania by sector and geographical area is not available. The Australian Antarctic Division spends approximately 60 per cent of its budget in Tasmania, which equates to approximately \$71 million in 2009-10.

This expenditure is dispersed across a number of sectors employing Tasmanians:

- Manufacturing and construction
- Food
- Clothing and footwear
- Household contents and services
- Health
- Transportation
- Communication
- Information technology
- Education and training
- Professional services
- Research and development

The Australian Antarctic Division sources goods and services from all over Tasmania, but predominantly from businesses servicing Southern Tasmania.

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Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	3	Question No:	126
Program:	3.1		
Division/Agency:	Australian Antarctic Division		
Topic:	Antarctic tourism operations		
Hansard Page ECA:	78 (27/5/09)		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—You have mentioned new tourism agreements. Do all countries that currently have tourism operations to Antarctica participate in the convention and are they parties to the treaty?

Ms Maddock—Can I take that on notice? My understanding is ‘yes’ but I am not sure completely, so I will take it on notice. Certainly all the major ones were there and took part—that is, the US; the Latin Americans; Canada, as an observer; and most of the Europeans and South Africans. For all of the ports from which they would leave the answer is certainly yes, but I will just assure myself on the question of whether those currently undertaking tourist activities in the Antarctic are all treaty members.

Answers:

A very small number of private yachts registered in countries that are not Party to the Antarctic Treaty visit Antarctica. Commercial tourism operations are all authorised by Parties to the Antarctic Treaty. These Parties participate in Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings.

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Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	3	Question No:	127
Program:	3.1		
Division/Agency:	Australian Antarctic Division in consultation with Heritage Division		
Topic:	Albatross during Antarctic session - Macquarie Island		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator SIEWERT asked:

Previously the Government allocated \$240,000/year for albatross assessment & recovery plan.

1. Could the Government explain why there are no funds allocated to monitor Albatrosses as part of the feral eradication program on Macquarie Island?
2. How will you know if it's working?

Answer:

The question touches on two separate issues, the Albatross and Giant Petrel Recovery Plan and the Macquarie Island rabbit and rodent eradication program.

The 2001 Albatross and Giant Petrel Recovery Plan, which has now lapsed, and the draft 2009 replacement plan both include a range of conservation activities, including monitoring populations on Macquarie Island. The 2001 Recovery Plan implementation was funded at \$145,000 per annum from the Natural Heritage Trust up until 30 June 2008 when the Trust ceased. The department is yet to determine what level of funding will be provided in 2009/10 for albatross conservation activities under the draft Recovery Plan.

The monitoring plan for the eradication program is being developed. This plan will consider impacts on non-target species. In addition, during the bait laying phase of the eradication program all Wandering Albatross nests will be monitored and any baits falling within reach of chicks will be removed to ensure their safety.

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Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	3	Question No:	128
Program:	3.1		
Division/Agency:	Australian Antarctic Division		
Topic:	World Heritage nomination - Antarctic		
Hansard Page ECA:	69 (27/5/09)		

Senator BROWN asked:

Senator BOB BROWN—Is there anything that you are aware of in the World Heritage Convention or elsewhere that would prevent the Antarctic Treaty Organisation from promulgating a nomination?

Mr Shevlin—I would honestly have to take that one on notice.

Senator BOB BROWN—Would you do so. Is there any evidence at all that any Antarctic treaty organisation has or would move to block a World Heritage nomination for Antarctica?

Ms Kruk—We will take that on notice.

Answer/s:

The listing mechanism of the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* ('The World Heritage Convention') requires that only a country with territorial jurisdiction can make a nomination within that jurisdiction. The special legal and political status of Antarctica, accommodating the positions of both those countries claiming territory and those which do not recognise such claims, would present significant challenges in applying this listing mechanism.

The benefits of a World Heritage listing have already been achieved or exceeded in Antarctica. The Parties to the Antarctic Treaty have consistently taken measures to ensure Antarctica's protection through the Antarctic Treaty and associated instruments.