

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

Budget Estimates 2010-2011, May 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	108
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	CSD		
Topic:	Low Emission Assistance Plan for Renters (LEAPR) Funding Error in Budget Papers		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senators BIRMINGHAM and FISHER asked:

Can the department explain how this \$131 million 'error' occurred?

- a) Did this minister sign off on the Budget paper with the mistake?
 - i) If not, why not?
 - ii) And who did?
 - iii) Who in the Department was responsible?

Answer:

An error was made in the Department's 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) that resulted in funding for the Green Start program, to commence in 2010-11, being incorrectly combined with the residual funding for the LEAPR program that closed in 2009.

- a) Minister Wong approved the Department's 2010-11 PBS on the recommendation of the Department.
 - i) Not applicable.
 - ii) Not applicable.
 - iii) The error reflects a breakdown in the clearance processes within the Department. No single person was responsible.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	109
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	CSD		
Topic:	Staffing		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator FISHER asked:

I refer to an article by Simon Kearney of The Sunday Telegraph on 4 April 2010 regarding the department building and staffing - 'We pay \$57m for climate change phantoms'

1. Can you please provide a copy of the response of the department to the Minister's office regarding these claims?
2. Please provide copies of associated correspondence and briefings with the Minister's and or Prime Minister's office.

Answer:

1. There was no response provided to the Minister's office regarding *The Sunday Telegraph article* on 4 April 2010 on the Department building and staffing.
2. Not applicable.

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 110
Program: Corporate
Division/Agency: CSD
Topic: CPRS
Hansard Page ECA: Written

Senator FISHER asked:

Budget Paper 2 on the CPRS (page 9) – says “additional net departmental savings have also been taken, amounting to \$237.6 million over five years from 2009-2010”.

1. How were these savings realised?
2. Were they the result of the transfer of staff from DEWHA to DCCEE?

Answer:

1. The net departmental savings of \$237.6 million over five years from 2009-10 outlined in Budget Paper 2 (page 9) comprises the following:

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme - Deferral	\$ m
Department of Innovation Industry Science and Research – Climate Change Action Fund	0.5
Australian Climate Change Regulatory Authority	259.4
Department of Finance and Deregulation – Australian Climate Change Regulatory Authority Gateway Funding	0.3
ORER additional departmental	(9.0)
Greenhouse and Energy Data Office reinstate funding	<u>(13.6)</u>
Net savings	<u>237.6</u>

2. The savings did not result from the transfer of staff from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	111
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	CSD		
Topic:	Portfolio Programs		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator FISHER asked:

Please provide, in spreadsheet form, a list of all programmes administered by your Department and portfolio agencies. Please show for each listed programme:

- a) The name of the programme.
- b) Full administered expenses for each financial year of the forward estimates period starting from 2010-11.
- c) Full departmental expenses for each financial year of the forward estimates period starting from 2010-11.
- d) Allocated Average Staffing Level (ASL) for the programme in 2010-11.

For any information unable to be provided please provide reason why this is the case.

Answer:

(a) – (b) The name of each program and its administered expenses for each financial year of the forward estimates period starting from 2010-11 is located in the Department's 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements, as follows:

- Program expenses 1.1 – page 21
- Program expenses 1.2 – page 24
- Program expenses 1.3 – page 28
- Program expenses 1.4 – page 29

(c) – (d) The Department does not allocate its departmental expenses or ASL by program.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	112
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	Executive		
Topic:	Speeches		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What speeches has Dr Parkinson delivered over the last 12 months?
2. Were any speeches given at the direction of the Minister?
3. Does the Minister or the Minister's staff vet his speeches, or have they previously?

Answer:

1. A detailed listing of speeches delivered by Dr Parkinson over the last 12 months is at Attachment A.
2. No.
3. No. However, Dr Parkinson routinely provides an advance copy of his speeches to the Minister's Office for information.

SECRETARY'S SPEECHES: JULY 2009 – JUNE 2010

Date	Occasion/Location	Topic
23 July 09	Financial Review Carbon Reduction Conference 2009 (Melbourne)	Australia in the Low Carbon Economy
9 October 09	Property Council of Australia Business Forum (Melbourne)	Carbon Neutrality in an Urban Environment
30 October 09	Allens Arthur Robinson: Business Forum (Sydney)	Issues Facing the Copenhagen Summit and the Emissions Trading Scheme
17 November 09	Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry: AGM (Canberra)	The Climate Change Policy of the Australian Government
19 February 10	National Coast Climate Change Forum (Adelaide)	Coastal Adaptation – A National Perspective
25 February 10	Urban Planning and Climate Change Roundtable (Canberra)	National Action Linking Urban Planning and Climate Change Adaptation
25 February 10	Centre for Corporate and Public Affairs: 2010 Politics and Public Policy Review (Canberra)	Climate Change and the Agenda for 2010
26 February 10	Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce Forum (Adelaide)	Managing the Risk of Climate Change: Taking a Businesslike Approach
31 March 10	Australian Business Economists Forum (Sydney)	Meeting Australia's Emissions Reduction Targets
14 April 10	Lowy Institute Business Forum (Sydney)	Post-Copenhagen – What Next for Action on Climate Change?
13 May 10	ANU International Relations Society: Panel Discussion on Climate Change Policy in Australia (Canberra)	Climate Change Policy in Australia and its future Direction

26 May 10	Property Council of Australia: 2010 Sustainability Conference: Repositioning our Cities (Melbourne)	Climate Change and the Sustainability of our Cities
8 June 10	The Alfred Deakin Lecture Series: Panel Discussion, Brave New World: The Climate Change Challenge (Melbourne)	Emissions Trading – Dead or Alive?
10 June 10	Carbon Markets and Investors Association: Panel Discussion, Why Emissions Trading Works	Emissions Trading Scheme vs Carbon Tax
28 June 10	Sir Leslie Melville Lecture 2010 (Canberra)	Climate Change and the Australian Reform Agenda

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	113
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Board Appointments		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
2. What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since the Government came to office in November 2007?

Answer:

There has been only one board with Ministerial appointments in the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio since November 2007. That Board is the Australian Carbon Trust Limited (ACTL) Board.

The ACTL was established to provide finance and advice to Australian businesses and the wider community to achieve energy efficiency improvements and cost effective carbon emission reductions.

The ACTL is responsible for implementing the Energy Efficiency Trust and the National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program.

The following directors are current members of the ACTL Board:

- Professor Robert Hill – Chair – US Studies Centre, Adjunct Professor in Sustainability, University of Sydney, Chancellor, University of Adelaide, Member of Global Change Institute, University of Queensland.
- Mr Martijn Wilder, Head of Baker & McKenzie's Global Climate Change and Emissions Trading Practice.
- Mr Tony Coleman, Director of Lonergan Edwards Associates.
- Mr Don Matthews, National President of the Australian Industry Group and former Chief Operating Officer of Amcor Australasia.

These are the first appointments to the Board. All appointments are part time and commenced on 14 January 2010 for a period of two years. A summary of appointments is provided at Attachment A.

The gender ratio male to female is 100 per cent : zero per cent at the current time. The ACTL constitution allows for the Board to have up to 11 members.

AUSTRALIAN CARBON TRUST LIMITED: (as at 14 September 2010)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GENDER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>FT/PT</u>	<u>STATE OF RESIDENCE</u>	<u>DATE APPOINTED</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT EXPIRY DATE</u>
<i>Current members:</i>						
Professor the Hon Robert Hill	M	Chair/Director	PT	SA	14 January 2010	Two years
Mr Martijn Wilder	M	Director	PT	NSW	14 January 2010	Two years
Mr Tony Coleman	M	Director	PT	NSW	14 January 2010	Two years
Mr Don Matthews	M	Director	PT	VIC	14 January 2010	Two years

Gender balance.
Males: 4
Females: 0

Geographic balance.	
NSW: 2	WA: 0
VIC: 1	QLD: 0
SA: 1	TAS: 0
NT: 0	ACT: 0

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	114
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	FOI		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

1. The Department processes FOI applications in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), FOI Regulations, and the FOI Guidelines available from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Departmental representatives have undertaken a range of professional development and training on FOI including attending the FOI Practitioner's Forum hosted by the Australian Government Solicitor.
2. In the 2009-10 financial year, the Department:
 - a. received 23 new FOI applications made under section 15 of the FOI Act;
 - b. received four applications for internal review under section 54 of the FOI Act;
 - c. accepted transfer of 13 applications from other Commonwealth agencies under section 16 of the FOI Act; and
 - d. processed 14 consultation requests from other Commonwealth and State agencies.
3. In the 2009-10 financial year the Department:
 - a. granted access in full in seven FOI cases;
 - b. granted partial access in seven FOI cases;
 - c. refused access in three FOI cases; and
 - d. had six applications withdrawn.

The remaining cases were still being processed by the Department at the end of the 2009-10 financial year.

4. No conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI applications received by the Department.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 115
Program: Corporate
Division/Agency: GPSD
Topic: Community Cabinet Meeting
Hansard Page ECA: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since additional estimates?
2. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?
3. What was the total cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?

Answer:

1. As at 15 September 2010, the Department of Finance and Deregulation had paid the following costs for Minister Wong's travel to Community Cabinet meetings held between Additional Estimates and the date of the Question.

Meeting	Cost
Ballarat (Vic), Community Cabinet Meeting of 18 February 2010	\$1,413.83
Epping (NSW), Community Cabinet Meeting of 15 April 2010	\$1,213.06
Burnie (Tas), Community Cabinet Meeting of 19 May 2010	\$333.25
Total	\$2,960.14

2. The Minister was accompanied by the following staff:

	Ministerial Staff	Departmental Staff
Ballarat	2	1
Epping	3	1
Burnie	2	1

3. As at 15 September 2010, the total cost of travel for ministerial staff and departmental officers accompanying the Minister to the Community Cabinet meetings was \$9,929.04. A breakdown of the costs is provided in the following tables.

Ballarat (Vic), Community Cabinet Meeting of 18 February 2010

Staff	Cost
MOP(S) Act employee	\$1,298.55
MOP(S) Act employee*	\$978.88
DCC Staff - Secretary	\$1,259.00
Total	\$3,536.43

*Water

Epping (NSW), Community Cabinet Meeting of 15 April 2010

Staff	Cost
MOP(S) Act employee	\$529.23
MOP(S) Act employee	\$1,065.44
MOP(S) Act employee	\$1,087.20
DCC Staff - Secretary	\$1,397.00
Total	\$4,078.87

Burnie (Tas), Community Cabinet Meeting of 19 May 2010

Staff	Cost
MOP(S) Act employee	\$335.43
MOP(S) Act employee*	\$978.31
DCC Staff – Deputy Secretary	\$1,000.00
Total	\$2,313.74

*Water

4. Total cost to the Department and the Minister's Office:

	Minister's Office	Department
Ballarat	\$3,691.26	\$1,259.00
Epping	\$3,894.93	\$1,397.00
Burnie	\$1,646.99	\$1,000.00
Total	\$9,233.18	\$3,656.00

Note: As Minister Wong's portfolio responsibilities fell across two different Departments, her travel and associated costs are not counted twice through separate reporting from both these Departments.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 116
Program: Corporate
Division/Agency: GPSD
Topic: Questions on Notice
Hansard Page ECA: 50

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER—I am asking Dr Parkinson to group—so, to indicate the number of—those 77 questions that were returned from the minister's office to the department for one reason or another, rather than being passed to the committee.

Dr Parkinson—Just to be clear then, you are asking of the 77, how many of those—

Senator FISHER—If any.

Dr Parkinson—if any, had to go through an iteration between the minister's office and the department for whatever reason.

Senator FISHER—Thank you.

Senator Wong—We will take that on notice and I am flagging the resources which you are flagging that we would need to undertake a tracking process of every question on notice, I am not sure I am going to want to do that; I will be frank with you. These people have a lot to do and you are asking—

Senator FISHER—I genuinely find that surprising, but I will reconsider my request if you are able to convince me of that.

Answer:

As at 27 May 2010, 76 responses to Questions on Notice from the Additional Estimates hearing in February 2010 had been tabled with the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Of those responses, 16 were returned to the Department for redrafting throughout the clearance process.

Question No.	Date submitted to Minister
CC35	21 April 2010
CC38	25 March 2010
CC40	25 March 2010
CC43	25 March 2010
CC49	24 March 2010
CC50	24 March 2010
CC51	24 March 2010
CC57	26 March 2010
CC58	24 March 2010
CC59	24 March 2010
CC60	24 March 2010
CC72	24 March 2010
CC73	24 March 2010
CC74	24 March 2010
CC75	24 March 2010
CC8	24 March 2010

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	117
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Questions on Notice		
Hansard Page ECA:	51		

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER—I would have thought there would be an electronic record which would be reasonably easy to amass, but if it is a significant impost then I am happy to receive that information and reconsider my request. I presume I can do that since I am making it; I can withdraw it upon further advice, I would have thought, but I am happy to be convinced of that. Finally, Dr Parkinson, can you also indicate, of those 77 answers, the date upon which the penultimate draft, which became the answer, was provided to the minister's office?

Dr Parkinson—I will have a look at what information we can pull out.

Answer:

Please see response to Question on Notice No. 116.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	118
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Government Advertising		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken?
2. For each program, what is the total spend (a breakdown of how much was spent/is planned to be spent on each program/initiative should be provided.)

Answer:

1. The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has undertaken one communications program since Additional Estimates. This was for the Emissions-Intensive Trade-Exposed (EITE) industries' Partial Exemptions under the Renewable Energy Target program. The purpose of this was to inform relevant stakeholders of the new eligibility requirement of the new exemption under the scheme. There are no future communications programs planned at this stage.
2. The total spent for the expression of interest advertising for the EITE industries' Partial Exemptions workshops was \$53,492.79 (inc GST).

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	119
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Staffing		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)?
2. What level are these staff?
3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?
4. Since additional estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

1. There have been six permanent staff recruited since Additional Estimates in February 2010.
2. The levels the staff were employed at range from APS4 to EL2.
3. There have been 12 temporary positions created since Additional Estimates.
4. There are currently two employees on a contract. The average length of their employment period is six to 12 months.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	120
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Staffing – Efficiency Dividend / Budget Cuts		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
 - a) Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?
 - b) Since additional estimates?
2. If so, where and at what level?
3. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
4. If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say ‘improvement to strategic work practices’ or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)
5. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

1.
 - a) Staffing numbers have not been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend.
 - b) Staffing numbers have not been reduced as a result of budget cuts.
2. Not applicable.
3. The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) has no plans for staff reduction.
4. Not applicable.
5. ORER has no changes in relation to graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs. There are no reductions or increases envisaged for ORER.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 121
Program: Corporate
Division/Agency: ORER
Topic: Hospitality
Hansard Page ECA: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?
2. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
3. For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.
4. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer:

1. The Office of the Renewable Regulator has spent \$253.80 on hospitality.
- 2.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
24 February 2010	Canberra	Working lunch meeting with stakeholders	\$183.00
6 April 2010	Canberra	Working lunch for recruitment panel	\$70.80

3. The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator holds no information regarding the hospitality spent for each Minister.
4. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	122
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Grants		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer:

1. The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator has no discretionary grants.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	123
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Reviews		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio agency since November 2007?
2. Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since the government came to Office (only those commenced after the current government came to office) including:
 - a) when those reviews were provided to Government,
 - b) estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and
 - c) if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.
3. How many reviews are ongoing?
4. How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?
5. What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?

Answer:

1. The total number of completed and ongoing reviews for the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) is nil.
2. No reviews have been completed since the Government has come in to Office.
3. No reviews are ongoing for ORER.
4. No reviews have been completed since Additional Estimates.
5. Under section 162 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Act 2010*, the Minister must cause an independent review of the operation of this Act and the scheme constituted by this Act as soon as practicable after 30 June 2012 and every two years thereafter.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	124
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Consultancies		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc.).
2. Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.
3. Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?
4. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answers:

1. The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) has undertaken seven consultancies since November 2007. In the table below is a breakdown of the consultancies used.

Consultant	Commence Date	End Date	Total Value (GST inclusive)	Method of Procurement	Service Provided
Cordelta	16/09/2009	31/12/2009	\$11,391.60	Direct Source	Fair market test of ARI's extension offer of the IBRS
Mechlab/UNSW	18/05/2006	30/06/2010	\$72,759	Panel Used	Technical Advisory panel (validating checks on SWH models)
Sunspin	31/05/2006	30/06/2010	\$104,025	Panel Used	Technical Advisory panel (validating checks on SWH models)
University of South Australia	10/07/2006	30/06/2010	\$25,035	Panel Used	Technical Advisory panel (validating checks on SWH models)
Hardworking Software	01/06/2009	30/06/2010	\$792	Direct Source	Assist with website and server relocation
TACTICS Consulting	19/10/2009	31/12/2009	\$8,552.50	Direct Source	Contract for consulting work testing the fair market value of the Internet Based Registry System (IBRS) AusRegistry International
Murdoch Link	23/05/2006	30/06/2009	\$11,715	Panel Used	Technical Advisory panel (validating checks on SWH models)
Total			\$234,270.10		

2. The breakdown of value and figures for financial years (GST inclusive) is as follows:

Consultant	2007-08 FY	2008-09 FY	2009-10 FY	Total
Cordelta			\$11,391.60	\$11,391.60
Mechlab/UNSW	\$35,716	\$26,175	\$10,868	\$72,759
Sunspin	\$16,500	\$31,500	\$56,025	\$104,025
University of South Australia	\$30	\$12,030	\$12,975	\$25,035
Hardworking Software		\$792		\$792
TACTICS Consulting			\$8,552.50	\$8,552.50
Murdoch Link		\$11,715		\$11,715
Total	\$52,246	\$82,212	\$99,812.10	\$234,270.10

3. ORER is up to date with reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website.
4. ORER currently anticipates entering into one consultancy during 2010-11 in regard to Data modelling for Small Scale Technology. This consultancy has been published in ORER's Annual Procurement Plan on the AusTender website. In addition, ORER may approach the market in 2010-11 to establish a panel of auditors to conduct Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) testing and auditing for solar water heaters and air-sourced heat pumps to ensure compliancy against the Renewable Energy Target (RET). Review of technical documents supporting the RET, in particular Small Scale Technologies and panel members may be invited to make proposals in relation to the reviewing of ORER's solar water heater REC methodologies. As a final decision has not yet been made regarding this panel and further details are not yet available, these consultancies have yet to be published on the AusTender website. ORER's Annual Procurement Plan will be updated with the panel details once they are known.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	125
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	Government Payment of Accounts		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
2. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

Please refer to question 94.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	126
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	ORER		
Topic:	FOI		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written		

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government to any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answers:

1. The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency through which ORER is able to access a range of services. ORER will at various times have received advice under the MOU of a general nature about FOI matters.
2. ORER has received two FOI request in the last 12 months. An original request was subsequently withdrawn and later resubmitted by the applicant.
3. No FOI request has been granted or denied in the last 12 months.
4. No conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests.