

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	All	Question No:	116
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	PCD		
Topic:	Dept/Agency funding – Cape York		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Siewert asked:

How much funding has been provided by the department or any of its agencies to the following organisations for the financial years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08?

- Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd;
- Cape York Land Council;
- Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership;
- Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships;
- Cape York Partnerships Pty Ltd;
- Cape York Corporation Pty Ltd;
- Cape York Financial Management Services Pty Ltd;
- Cape York Indigenous Environment Foundation;
- Cape York Aboriginal Charitable Trust

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Answers:

Details are provided in the table below.

Recipient	Purpose	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd.	Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records	Nil	\$49,500 GST exclusive	Nil
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd.	Indigenous Culture Support	Nil	Nil	\$84,882 GST exclusive
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd	KuKu Thaypan Traditional Knowledge Fire Training Project Laura Basin Lakefield National Park	Nil	\$45,455	Nil
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd	Indigenous Heritage Program for a traditional knowledge recording project entitled "Using Digital Technology to Record the Cultural Values of Our Waterways".	Nil	\$100,000	Nil
Cape York Land Council	To facilitate discussions held in relation to the development of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement over the Bertiehaugh pastoral lease.	Nil	Nil	\$15,090
Cape York Land Council	Purchase of Bertiehaugh Pastoral Holding Cape York Peninsula, Queensland to establish the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve.	Nil	Nil	\$6,269,718
Cape York Corporation Pty Ltd	Cape York Indigenous Land Management Facilitator	\$72,700	\$116,250	\$116,250
Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership Cape York Partnerships Pty Ltd Cape York Financial Management Services Pty Ltd Cape York Indigenous Environment Foundation Cape York Aboriginal Charitable Trust	No funding recorded			

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	117
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Policy Coordination Division		
Topic:	DEWHA – Tabling of Annual Report		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

If the Department's annual report has not yet been tabled, when will it be tabled and was any consideration given to having the annual report ready in advance of Supplementary Estimates as a courtesy?

Answer:

The Department's Annual Report for 2007-08 was tabled in Parliament on 31 October 2008. The Annual Report was prepared in accordance with Section 70 of the Public Service Act 1999, the Requirements for Annual Reports for 2007-08, and the Guidelines for the Presentation of Government Documents to the Parliament.

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	118
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Corporate Strategies Division		
Topic:	DEWHA – Underspent Programs		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many programs were underspent in 07-08 financial year?
2. What requests have been made to roll-over underspends to 2008-09?
3. Were these requests successful?

Answers:

1. The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) had a total of 68 Programs in the 2007-2008 financial year which were underspent. Of these Programs, 65% were less than 5% underspent.
2. There were six requests made by DEWHA for rolling 2007-2008 unspent funds into 2008-2009. These Programs are:
 - Water for the Future – Restoring the Balance in the Basin for \$22.67m
 - Water for the Future – The Living Murray Initiative for \$2.03m
 - Cultural Development Program Regional Arts Fund for \$0.07m
 - Indigenous Cultural Support Program for \$0.03m
 - Prime Ministers Literary Award for \$0.20m
 - Indigenous Broadcasting Program for \$0.10m
3. The requests were successful except those for the Indigenous Cultural Support Program and the Indigenous Broadcasting Program.

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	119
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Policy Coordination Division		
Topic:	DEWHA – media monitoring		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

How much has been spent on media monitoring to date this year?

Answer:

Between July and October 2008 the department spent \$188,000 on media monitoring.

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Outcome:	ALL	Question No:	120
Output:	ALL		
Division/Agency:	Policy Coordination Division		
Topic:	DEWHA – communications programs		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

What communications programs has the Department undertaken, or is planning to undertake? For each program, what is the total spend?

Answer:

The department develops and implements communication strategies for each of its major programs. These include a broad range of communication activities ranging from media and issues management, websites, publications, events and general public relations activities. The corporate communications budget for 2008-09 is \$1.9 million.

To date in 2008-09 major expenditure on communications programs across the department is limited to:

A consumer information 'look for the tick' campaign conducted jointly with Australian Refrigeration Council to alert consumers to leaking air conditioners. The campaign is running from November 2008 - January 2009 with a budget of \$970, 000.

The department is planning a number of communications programs in 2008-09 for which a budget has yet to be determined. These are expected to include programs to communicate:

- Water for the Future
- Householder energy efficiency, including green loans
- Caring for our Country

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	121
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Policy Coordination Division		
Topic:	DEWHA – discretionary grants		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

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

Answer:

Yes.

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	122
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	PCD		
Topic:	DEWHA FOI		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

- (a) Has the Department received any advice on how to respond to freedom of information (FOI) requests?
- (b) How many FOI requests has the Department received?
- (c) How many have been granted or denied?
- (d) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answers:

- (a) The Department has previously sought general advice from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) on matters relating to the interpretation of various provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. It has not sought advice on how to respond to a specific freedom of information (FOI) request.
- (b) In 2007-8 a total of 71 FOI requests were received.
From 1 July 2008 to 10 November 2008, 22 FOI requests were received.
- (c) From 1 July to 10 November 2008 a total of 28 FOI requests have been finalised as follows:

Granted in full:	9
Granted in part:	10
Transferred:	2
Refused:	1
Withdrawn:	6
- (d) From 1 July 2008 there have been no conclusive certificates issued.

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	123
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	PCD		
Topic:	DEWHA Reviews		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many Reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio?
2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
3. Which Reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates?
4. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

Answers:

1. Eleven.
- 2-4. Details provided in the tables below.

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1 Current Reviews	2 To be Concluded
Review of the National Heritage List	2 January 2009
Review of the Commonwealth Heritage List	2 January 2009
Review of the Cultural Ministers Council – October 2009.	October 2009
Review of the Cultural Ministers Council Statistics Working Group – mid 2009.	Mid 2009
The “review of the current state of artists’ incomes” will be finalised by mid 2009.	Mid 2009
The ATSIAB’s key organisations review will be finalised by end 2008.	End 2008
The findings of the review of literature infrastructure funding will be presented to the Australia Council’s Literature Board in November 2008.	The Literature Board will continue to consult with the sector with a view to the arrangements for literature to be in place by the end of 2010.
The third review of the MPAI Funding Model will be completed by mid 2009.	Mid 2009
The review of the Major Festivals Initiative will be completed by mid 2009.	Mid 2009
The independent review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is currently being conducted. The review was commissioned by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on 31 October 2008. The review will assess the operation of the EPBC Act and the extent to which its objects have been achieved. This is the first review of the EPBC Act since its commencement on 16 July 2000.	Section 522A of the EPBC Act requires the Act to be independently reviewed within 10 years of the commencement of the Act (16 July 2000). However, the Terms of Reference for the review require the review to be completed by 31 October 2009.
The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry are undertaking a review of the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997 and the Natural Resource Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992.	February 2009

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3 Reviews Completed since Budget Estimates	4 Government Response
The World Heritage Ministerial Council and Property Governance review	As a member of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council the Government responded in November 2008
The Department has completed an internal review of issues relevant to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984.	The government is yet to decide when it will respond
The Independent Expert Review of the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery. Reported to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on 31 October 2008.	The Review informs the Minister's decision-making under the EPBC Act
The review of the first phase of water entitlement purchasing under the Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin program has been completed since the Budget.	The report of an independent assessment which formed part of the review, a statement from the Stakeholder Consultative Committee and the Department's response were released on 18 October 2008
A review of the Australia Business Arts Foundation (AbaF) was completed in August 2008.	It is anticipated that the Government will respond to the review of AbaF following its current consideration of the review report.
The Music, Dance and Theatre Boards' reviews of small-to-medium organisations funded on a triennial basis.	The Australian Government has been advised of the outcomes of the Australia Council's reviews of music, dance and theatre. The Australian Government is not required to respond.
The Australia Council's review of its internal operations from February to April 2008. The outcomes of this review were put in place from 1 July 2008.	The Australian Government is not required to respond to reviews by the Australia Council's ATSIAB and Literature Board.
The Major Performing Arts Board's Evaluation of the Orchestras Review Funding Package was completed by 30 September 2008.	It is expected the Australian and State Governments will consider the results of the third review of the MPAI funding model in the second half of 2009.
The Australia Council has concluded its review of the 2007 Books Alive campaign.	The Australian Government is yet to be advised of the outcomes of the review of the 2007 Books Alive campaign.
The Review of the Transitional Assistance grants awarded under the Product Stewardship for Oil Programme - a non-statutory review.	As this was a non-statutory review, the Government will not be responding
Environment Protection and Heritage Council's World Heritage Ministerial Council and Property Governance review (Decision No: 217).	In November 2008. EPHC - agreed to the revised WH management principles, high level funding principles, and operational arrangements and membership for AWHAC. EPHC also agreed that the review was finalised and noted the timeframe and process for development of the WH IGA (Decision No: 307)

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	124
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Policy Coordination Division		
Topic:	DEWHA – Community Cabinet		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates?
2. How many Ministerial Staff and Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting?
3. What was the total cost of this travel?

Answers:

1. As at 17 November 2008, the Department of Finance and Deregulation had paid the following costs for Minister Wong's travel to Community Cabinet meetings held between Budget Estimates and the date of the Question:

Mackay Community Cabinet Meeting on 29 June 2008 - \$833.42
Yirrkala Community Cabinet Meeting on 23 July 2008 - \$1764.48
Hallett Cove Community Cabinet Meeting on 14 August 2008 - nil
Newcastle Community Cabinet Meeting on 29 September 2008 - \$2,898.56

As at 17 November 2008, the Department of Finance and Deregulation had paid the following costs for Minister Garrett's travel to Community Cabinet meetings held between Budget Estimates and the date of the Question:

Yirrkala Community Cabinet Meeting on 23 July 2008 - \$2991.33
Hallett Cove Community Cabinet Meeting on 14 August 2008 - \$1005.00
Newcastle Community Cabinet Meeting on 29 September 2008 - \$505.74

An RAAF Special Purpose Aircraft was used for Ministers' travel between Darwin and Nhulunbuy for the Yirrkala Community Cabinet. Minister Wong also undertook other travel on Special Purpose Aircraft related to her attendance at both the Mackay and Yirrkala Community Cabinet meetings. Details regarding the cost of flights and passenger manifests can be found in the *Schedule of Special Purpose Flights* which is tabled every six months. The schedule for 1 July to 31 December 2008 will be tabled in June 2009.

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2. Minister Wong was accompanied by one ministerial staff member to the Mackay and Yirrkala Community Cabinet meetings, two to the Hallett Cove meeting and two to the Newcastle meeting.

Minister Garrett was accompanied by one ministerial staff member to the Yirrkala Community Cabinet meeting, and two staff members to each of the Hallett Cove and Newcastle meetings. One of Minister Garrett's staff travelled to the Mackay Community Cabinet meeting to support another Minister who undertook meetings on Minister Garrett's behalf.

Two Departmental officers from DEWHA attended the Mackay and Hallett Cove Community Cabinet meetings to support Ministers. One officer attended the Yirrkala and Newcastle meetings.

3. The total cost of travel for Ministers Wong and Garrett's ministerial staff and accompanying departmental officers to attend the four Community Cabinet meetings covered by this Question was \$31,042.35.

Note: The figures for Ministers and their staff include airfares and Travelling Allowance (including Motor Vehicle Allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge) or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft.

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	125
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	PCD/CSD		
Topic:	DEWHA Travel		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates? If so, where was the travel and what was the duration?
2. What was the total cost of:
 - a) Travel
 - b) accommodation, and
 - c) any other expenses?
3. How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?
4. For these staff/family what was the cost of:
 - a) travel
 - b) accommodation, and
 - c) any other expenses?
5. How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?
6. In relation to these Department officers, what was the total cost of:
 - a) travel
 - b) accommodation, and
 - c) any other expenses?

Answers:

1. Minister Garrett has travelled overseas since Budget Estimates. The Minister travelled to Chile and the United States (US) from 22 June – 2 July 2008 and New Zealand from 8 – 11 September 2008.
2. As at 17 December 2008, the cost of Minister Garrett's travel to both Chile and the US is as follows:
 - a. Travel: \$19,341.64
 - b. Accommodation: \$8,214.10

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- c. Other expenses: \$5,894.21

As at 19 November 2008, the cost of the Minister's travel to New Zealand was:

- a. Travel: \$2,775.54
- b. Accommodation: \$636.18
- c. Other expenses: \$282.08

- 3. In Chile, Minister Garrett was accompanied by two advisers. In the US, Minister Garrett was accompanied by one adviser.

In New Zealand, Minister Garrett was accompanied by one adviser.

- 4. As at 17 December 2008, the total cost of the Minister's advisers' travel to both Chile and the US is as follows:
 - a. Travel: \$28,949.50
 - b. Accommodation: \$5,894.23
 - c. Other expenses: \$1,791.39

As at 19 November 2008, the total cost of the Minister's adviser's travel to New Zealand was:

- a. Travel: \$2,775.54
- b. Accommodation: \$269.47
- c. Other expenses: \$528.35

- 5. One departmental officer accompanied the Minister in both Chile and the US. A further six departmental officers accompanied the Minister in Chile as part of the Australian delegation to the 60th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission. One further departmental officer on official travel to the US accompanied the Minister for one day in that country.

One officer from the department accompanied the Minister in New Zealand.

- 6. As at 19 November 2008, the total cost of the departmental officers' travel in Chile and the US is as follows:
 - a. Travel: \$106,783.28
 - b. Accommodation: \$32,628.84
 - c. Other expenses: \$16,512.33

As at 19 November 2008, the total cost of the departmental officer's travel in New Zealand was:

- a. Travel: \$2,932.01
- b. Accommodation: \$567.33
- c. Other expenses: \$311.01

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	126
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Corporate Strategies Division		
Topic:	DEWHA - MOPS		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

For each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary in the portfolio,

1. how many staff based in the electorate office;
2. MOPS classification of each staff member based in electorate office;
3. duty statement of each staff member in electorate office
4. in relation to personal staff based in the electorate office, please list supporting Department for each

Answers:

- 1-2. The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation has provided the following information in relation to the number and classification of *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* employees (MOP(S) Act employees) based in the electorate office:

The Hon Peter Garrett MP AM MP – MOP(S) Act employees in Electorate Office

Number of Employees	Classifications
4	Electorate Officer B x 3
	Electorate Officer A x 1

3. The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that the issue of duty statements is a matter for each employing Senator or Member. There are no duty statements for MOP(S) Act employees issued by Ministerial and Parliamentary Services.
4. The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation is responsible for the payment of salary and related expenses for 'personal staff' who are employed under Part III of the MOP(S) Act. They are also responsible for the payment of travel costs (fares and travelling allowance) on the same basis that applies to all other MOP(S) Act employees.

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	127
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Corporate Strategies Division		
Topic:	DEWHA - Staff		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many permanent staff recruited since the budget estimates?
2. What level are these staff?
3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created since budget estimates?
4. Since budget estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
5. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
6. If so, where and at what level?

Answers:

1. 271 staff have been recruited since 31 May 2008
2. The table below shows the levels of staff recruited since 31 May 2008.

Level	Total
APS 1/2	6
APS 3	23
APS 4	26
APS 5	51
APS 6	76
EXEC 1	67
EXEC 2	13
LO 1	1
PAO 3	4
SES LEV1	3
SES LEV2	1
Total	271

APS – Australian Public Service

LO – Legal Officer

PAO – Public Affairs Officer

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3. As at 31 October 2008 there were 493 temporary positions, an increase of 33 since Budget Estimates.
4. Since 31 May 2008, 298 employees have been employed on contract. The average length of the employment period is 30 weeks.
5. No
6. Not applicable

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	128
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Corporate Strategies Division		
Topic:	DEWHA Razor Gang Mk II		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What discussions has the Department had with the Razor Gang Mk II?
2. Has the Razor Gang indicated any cuts/savings to be made by the Department?
3. What special accounts does the Department currently hold? How much is in these accounts?
4. Does the Department use the interest from these funds to fund ongoing operations?
5. Has the Razor Gang Mark II given any indication about the future of these special accounts?

Answers:

1. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) has answered these questions on the basis that "Razor Gang Mk II" refers to the Government's Expenditure Review Taskforce.

Since April 2008 DEWHA staff have been engaged in ongoing discussions with Expenditure Review Taskforce staff from the Department of Finance and Deregulation in relation to the department's responsibilities and funding.

2. The Expenditure Review Taskforce has broadly considered possible savings arising from an assessment of the Department's programs including discretionary grants. However, the Government has not, as yet, indicated any specific savings required of the department.

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3. The Table below lists the Special Accounts currently held by the department and Balances as at 19 November 2008.

Special Account Title	Balance as at 19 November 2008
Australian Antarctic Heritage Conservation	\$ -
Environmental Water Holdings Special Account	\$ 2,022,800.00
National Cultural Heritage Account	\$ 300,000.00
Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Account	\$286,478,935.36
Ozone Protection and SGG Account	\$ 20,426,379.06
Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Account	\$ 3,358,135.89
Northern Territory Flexible Funding Pool *	\$ 2,223,684.18
Sea Installations Account	\$ -
Other Trust Monies	\$ 405,382.12
Services for Other Governments and Non-Agency Bodies	\$ 3,563,773.20
Cultural Ministers' Council Special Account	\$ 680,219.74
National Collections Special Account	\$ 255,689.74
National Portrait Gallery Special Account	\$ 70,391.85
Return of Indigenous Cultural Property Special Account	\$ 1,135,892.01
Art Rental Special Account	\$ 1,588,447.25

* This Special account is held by FAHCSIA but DEWHA report on the balances transferred to the Department.

4. No.
5. No.

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Outcome:	All	Question No:	129
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Corporate Strategies Division		
Topic:	DEWHA - Hospitality		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

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

Answers:

1. The department has spent \$13,484.87 on official hospitality provided between 1 July 2008 and 17 November 2008. Some additional expenses have been incurred this year for official hospitality provided in 2007/08 but not invoiced until this financial year.

2. Departmental official hospitality expenses – 1 July 2008 to 17 November 2008

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
21 May 2008	Maritim Hotel, Bonn, Germany	Catering for Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity side event hosted by Australian Government and the United Nations Environment Program - World Conservation Monitoring Centre	\$ 596.31
26 May 2008	The Establishment Hotel, Sydney	Bilateral meeting with New Zealand officials to align Australian and New Zealand whaling positions in the lead up to the International Whaling Commission meeting in Chile, June 2008	\$ 878.64
13 June 2008	Tiflis Kyiv Restaurant, Kiev, Ukraine	Margins' function with members of the Australian and Japanese delegations Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXXI	\$ 716.98
5 June 2008	Commonwealth Club, Canberra	National Portrait Gallery Board dinner	\$ 653.00
11 June 2008	Grand Hyatt, Tokyo, Japan	Australia / Japanese Antarctic Science Cooperation Function	\$3,961.54
23 June 2008	Old Parliament House, Canberra	Stakeholder meeting (with artist and academic) over lunch	\$ 43.86

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Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
25 June 2008	Explorers Inn, Emerald, Queensland	Official Dinner, Joint Steering Committee	\$ 370.00
2 July 2008	Lemongrass Thai Restaurant, Canberra	Dinner for participants of a 2 day workshop about the Australian Biodiversity Hotspots Program	\$ 635.54
9 July 2008	National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra	Official NAIDOC Week event - Indigenous cultural performance and catering	\$ 1,363.64
11 July 2008	London Circuit, Canberra	Catering for meeting to develop a regional allocation process for Caring for our Country	\$ 131.82
21 July 2008	Canberra	Catering for Parasitology Workshop	\$ 156.73
22 July 2008	The Burns Centre, Canberra	Catering for Heads of the Collecting Institutions meeting	\$ 367.27
5 August 2008	Benchmark Restaurant, Canberra	Australian Heritage Council - formal dinner after meeting	\$ 800.00
6 August 2008	Canberra	Access to genetic resources and benefit- sharing policy development meeting with Canadian Government Official	\$ 227.36
7 August 2008	National Gallery, Canberra	Heritage Chairs & Officials of Australia & NZ - formal dinner after meeting	\$ 2,231.49
12 August 2008	Darwin	Northern Australia Water Futures Assessment - Inaugural Working Group Meeting Official Dinner	\$ 426.18
12 August 2008	Adelaide	Catering for meeting to discuss arrangements for next Natural Resources Policy and Progress Committee (NRPPC) meeting	\$ 1,004.00
18 August 2008	Adelaide	National Water Quality Management Strategy Contact group - pre dinner drinks	\$ 181.82
27 August 2008	Canberra	Catering for 62 nd Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) Advisory Committee Meeting	\$ 454.91
30 August – 5 September 2008	Perth	Catering for the 36 th Threatened Species Scientific Committee meeting	\$ 682.71
4 September 2008	Commonwealth Club, Canberra	National Portrait Gallery Board dinner	\$ 1,204.00
5 September 2008	Old Parliament House, Canberra	National Portrait Gallery Board lunch	\$ 742.09

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Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
30 September 2008	JusQytlly Restaurant, Manuka	Networking and feedback opportunity for 28 Community Coastcare small grants assessors and 6 departmental staff	\$ 2,000.50
7 October 2008	O'Stratos Greek Taverna, Braddon	Networking and feedback opportunity for 13 Community Coastcare small grants assessors and 4 departmental staff	\$ 702.90
9 October 2008	Old Parliament House, Canberra	Exhibition (My Favourite Australian) project meeting afternoon tea	\$ 44.75
24 October 2008	John Gorton Building, Canberra	Catering for meeting with representatives of University of Western Australia, regarding their development proposal	\$ 70.91
26 October 2008	Canberra	Hospitality for visitor to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority	\$ 56.25

3. The Office of The Hon Peter Garrett MP has spent \$151.57 on official hospitality between 1 July 2008 and 17 November 2008.

The Office of Senator the Hon Penny Wong has spent \$1,725.95 on official hospitality between 1 July 2008 and 17 November 2008.

4. Office of The Hon Peter Garrett MP official hospitality expenses – 1 July 2008 to 17 November 2008

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
26 – 28 April 2008 (exact date uncertain)	Paris, France	Meetings relating to reciprocal hospitality afforded to foreign government officials, Members of Parliament and Ministers	\$ 151.57

Office of Senator the Hon Penny Wong official hospitality expenses – 1 July 2008 to 17 November 2008

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
8 - 13 April 2008 (exact date uncertain)	Beijing, China	Lunch function	\$1,725.95

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	All	Question No:	130
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	Corporate Strategies Division		
Topic:	Departmental Liaison Officers		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers are currently allocated to each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?
2. Can you rule out that they provide policy advice?

Answers:

1. The department has allocated two Departmental Liaison Officers to Minister Garrett's office and one Departmental Liaison Officer to Minister Wong's office.
2. The Departmental Liaison Officers do not provide policy advice.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	All	Question No:	164
Output:	All		
Division/Agency:	PCD		
Topic:	Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Boswell asked:

1. What if any steps have been taken to estimate the costs of the government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for every department, agency and program within this portfolio?
2. What are the costs and estimated costs identified (reported separately)?
3. Have any costs been included in forward estimates and if so where?

Answer:

The Australian Government's response to climate change forms an integral part of the department's policy and operation agenda including the Caring for our Country program, marine planning, terrestrial parks and reserves and the work of the Australian Antarctic Division.

It would not be feasible for costs associated with the government's climate change agenda to be unpicked from costs of delivering the department's outcomes and outputs across the board. Therefore the department and its portfolio agencies have not taken steps to cost government action in relation to the response to climate change, neither has there been an attempt to estimate the operational cost to the department under the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (the Scheme). The design of the Scheme has not been finalised at this time.