

**Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts**

**Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Environment and Heritage**

**Environment Australia**

Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

**Outcome 1**

**Question: 1**

**Division: Policy Coordination**

**Topic: Departmental Actual Expenses and forward year estimates**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Tabled**

Senator Nick Bolkus asked:

Given the changing structures of the department, can you provide (with the best possible estimates) a table with the following information: Actual spending in years to 99-00 and forward estimates (not including NHT spending)

**Answer:**

Below are the best estimates of expenses for the Department, the Australian Heritage Commission and National Parks, excluding the Natural Heritage Trust payment to the Department for the provision of services, eg staffing. Expense figures for the requested agencies from 1995-96 to 1998-99 were obtained from the relevant financial statements in the Annual Reports. Note that as a result of an enhancement to the Department's FMIS, the grants components of the Environment Program appropriation have been reported as an administered item for the first time in 1997-98.

<b>Departmental Expenses and Total Price of Output - excluding NHT</b>								
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Total Price	Total Price	Total Price
	Expense	Expense	Expense	Expense	Expense	of Output #	of Output #	of Output #
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Environment *	101,121	107,503	77,997	106,612				
Policy Coordination Division					17,073	24,359	19,315	18,301
Strategic Development Division					37,557	32,530	28,839	28,425
Approvals and Legislation Division					3,787	5,263	2,696	2,917
Australian and World Heritage Division (including AHC)					13,822	16,072	14,330	13,173
- Australian and World Heritage Division					3,289	7,038	5,878	3,720
- Australian Heritage Commission	18,525	13,929	11,261	11,600	10,533	9,034	8,452	9,453
Environment Quality Division					40,647	51,923	43,584	35,018
Marine and Water Division					6,741	9,497	15,544	5,684
Natural Heritage Division **					8,649	6,436	11,122	11,094
Supervising Scientist Division					6,872	5,891	5,760	5,880
Parks Australia (National Parks) **	106,184	84,934	55,491	58,343	64,135	59,388	61,525	62,919
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225,830</b>	<b>206,366</b>	<b>172,909</b>	<b>198,001</b>	<b>199,283</b>	<b>211,359</b>	<b>202,715</b>	<b>183,411</b>

# Total price of output equals appropriation plus external revenue retained by the Department and agencies.

\* Divisional expense figures (accruals) are not available from 1995-96 to 1998-99

\*\* The Wildlife function is included in Parks Australia up to 1999-2000 and the function was transferred to the Natural Heritage Division from 2000-01.

The drop in expense figures between 1996-97 and 1997-98 mainly relate to the creation of the Natural Heritage Trust, whereby previous funding for NHT initiatives were transferred to the Reserve, and there was a restructure of functions between the then Australian Nature Conservation Agency and the Department.

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**Environment and Heritage**

**Environment Australia**

Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

**Outcome 1, -**

**Question: 3**

**Division: Policy Coordination Division**

**Topic: Market Testing**

**Hansard Page: ECITA 18**

Senator Bolkus asked:

“Can you come back to us with statistics on how many expressions of interests were lodged with you in respect of each one of the tenders?.....In respect of finance and human resources, can you tell me how many expressions of interest there were, how many you have culled them down to and who they were once you made that decision?”

Answer:

As of 21 February 2001 there have been two approaches to the market for provision of elements of corporate services.

A request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for provision of Human Resource and Financial Services was publicly advertised on 8 September 2000. Six responses were received. A shortlist of three respondents has recently been approved for progression to the Request for Tender stage (RFT). The shortlisted respondents are:

- PriceWaterhouseCoopers
- Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting) and
- Deloitte Outsourcing Canberra.

A RFT for provision of Audit and Evaluation Services was released on 2 February 2001. Seven responses were received. These are currently under consideration.

No other EOIs or RFTs have been released to date. We expect the remainder to be released by the end of March 2001.

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Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

**Outcome 1,**

**Question: 4**

**Division: Policy Coordination Division**

**Topic: Output Pricing Review Second Stage**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA 18**

Senator Bolkus asked: What has that [Environment Australia's Output Pricing Review Stage Two] cost you?

Answer:

The Output Pricing Review Stage 1 is estimated to have cost the Department \$150,000 consisting of \$60,041 in consultant costs (KPMG Consulting) and \$90,000 as the estimated cost of Department officers' time.

The Output Pricing Review Stage Two is estimated to have cost the Department \$280,000 consisting of \$80,410 in consultant costs (KPMG Consulting) and \$200,000 as the estimated cost of the Department officers' time.

**Outcome: 1,**

**Question: 5**

**Division: Policy Coordination Division**

**Topic: Output Pricing Review Second Stage**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA 18**

Senator Bolkus asked: Can we get a copy [of Environment Australia's Output Pricing Review Stage Two]?

A copy of Environment Australia's 1999-2000 Output Pricing Review Stage 1 is attached. The report on stage 2 of the review is yet to be considered in context of the 2001-02 Budget and cannot be provided at this stage. I anticipate that it could be provided after the Budget

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Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

**Outcome: 2, Meteorology**

**Question: 6**

**Division:**

**Topic: IT Outsourcing**

**Hansard Page: ECITA 19**

Senator Bolkus asked:

Who did the scoping work?

Can you provide for us the information as to who they were and what it cost?"

Answer:

A consultant from ASPECT COMPUTING ( Mr Rodney Abbott) was engaged in late 1997 to assist the Bureau with a feasibility study to review the IT activities in the Bureau and to assess the potential for outsourcing in line with the Whole of Government Initiative for IT infrastructure. Consultancy cost was \$ 30,000.

A consultant from METAGROUP (Dr Wissam Raffoul) was engaged in October 2000 to assess the potential and cost of single points of failure and outsourcing risks for the Bureau's mission critical systems and to develop a template Service Level Agreement and Statement of Work consistent with OASITO guidelines. Consultancy cost was \$9,642.20

A consultant from Wyndarra Consulting (Mr Mike O'Loughlin) was engaged in December 2000 to assist the Bureau with a strategic risk assessment of the IT outsourcing project and strategies to minimise the identifiable risks. The consultancy when completed will cost \$14,400.