

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2005–06

*Environment and Heritage portfolio*

Questions on notice

Q No	ECITA Page	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Agency/ Div'n	Rec'd
1	Written QoN	Siewert	Whaling	Is the Government aware of the areas the Japanese whaling fleet has been operating in, particularly in relation to Australia and its Antarctic Territories?	AAD	30/03/06
2	Written QoN	Siewert	Whaling	Please provide details of the known locations, including the number of times they have entered Australian Antarctic Waters and the amount of time they have spent in these waters	AAD	30/03/06
3	Written QoN	Siewert	Whaling	Has the whaling fleet been operating at any time within Australian Antarctic waters, and if so, what response if any has there been to their activities within these waters? Is there any further response planned or underway?	AAD	28/03/06
4	Written QoN	Siewert	Whaling	Can you clarify what rights Australia can exercise over its Antarctic waters? Are these rights contested? Have they ever been tested?	AAD	11/04/06
5	99	McLucas	False Cape	It looks a lot like a road, doesn't it? For the benefit of others who might not know where this is, this is between the wet tropics World Heritage area and the Great Barrier Reef. We are talking about a piece of land on East Trinity that is between two World Heritage areas, and the picture that I have provided to you is meant to be about seeking geo-technical information. That looks like a road to me. You have confirmed it looks like a road to you. I do not know how that complies with the approvals that you have given. Mr Early—I have not personally been visiting, but our experts have visited and said that it is part of the preconstruction works that are acceptable within the approval. I can take that on notice and get further information to you.	AWD	11/04/06
6	99	McLucas	False Cape	When officers visited the site in December of this year, why did they attend...Could you take that on notice and tell me why officers visited the site in late December this year?	AWD	11/04/06
7	99	McLucas	False Cape	Let us move to the initial agreement. Looking through the initial agreement, I can find conditions that are relevant to the construction of buildings—how high they are going to be and whatever; and that seems to be about visual amenity, and that is fine—but very little about stormwater run-off, erosion questions. More fundamentally, there is some	AWD	11/04/06

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				discussion, especially in the minister's press release, about the impact on the Great Barrier Reef, but none at all about the impact on the wet tropics World Heritage area. Can you explain why there was some discussion, albeit limited, about potential impact on the reef but none at all on the impact on the wet tropics World Heritage area?		
8	100	McLucas	False Cape	It is hard to get to but extremely visible, and the impact of this development will be huge. I am concerned to know about the ability of your department to monitor these stringent conditions that the minister has signed off on. Mr Early—I can provide a detailed answer on notice.	AWD	11/04/06
9	101	McLucas	False Cape	9(a) Why was the Wet Tropics Management Authority not consulted in the approval process? Mr Early—I am not sure, Senator. I would also have to take that on notice. 9(b) Can you also advise what sort of ongoing monitoring the Department of the Environment and Heritage will undertake to ensure compliance? If the answer is that you will wait until July next year after the wet season, after we have had major rains with those sort of cuts around the place, then well and good. But I would like to know what the compliance regime with the 'stringent conditions' that the government has applied to this site will be. Mr Early - I will provide that as part of the detailed response I spoke about, Senator.	AWD	11/04/06
10	102	Siewert	Case Studies	So there is one case where they have been formally required to pay and remediate and a number of others have been negotiated informally. Do I understand that correctly? Mr Early—Informally, not through the legal system. But they are formal agreements. In fact, the one that the minister just mentioned is costing the company in the order of \$400,000. So it is formal as far as they are concerned. Senator Ian Campbell—Mr Early referred to a report on this. It might pay to give Senator Siewert that report. Mr Early—There have been a number of case studies in our annual report so I can dig them out and give them to you.	AWD	11/04/06
11	Written QoN	Siewert	Sharks	11(a) Is the Department undertaking any assessment of shark fisheries in Australia waters other than the ongoing Western Australian assessment? 11(b) If so, which ones and at what stage is the assessment? 11(c) Does the department acknowledge: (i) That the true status of most shark populations in Australian waters is	MD	11/04/06

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				<p>unknown?</p> <p>(ii) That basic biological information is lacking for almost all species of sharks?</p> <p>(iii) That knowledge of habitat preferences and other ecological requirements is poor or unknown?</p> <p>(iv) That there is inadequate monitoring, enforcement and research programs specifically designed for sharks?</p> <p>(v) That there is wide spread concern about the apparent decline in shark numbers?</p> <p>11(h) Has the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks been reviewed?</p> <p>11(i) If so, when and what were the outcomes of that review?</p> <p>11(j) Has the department considered the listing of shark species on CITES?</p>		
12	Written QoN	Siewert	Threatened Marine Species	What progress has been made in the assessment and listing of commercial species including the Orange Roughy, Eastern Gemfish, Harrison's Deepsea Dogfish, Southern Dogfish and Endeavour Dogfish?	AWD	28/03/06
13	Written QoN	Carr	Bureau of Meteorology	<p>13(a) What considerations did the Bureau look at prior to making the decision to reduce the services provided from the Rockhampton Weather Service Office particularly the hours of operation from 2.30am - 10.pm down to 5.40am - 10.30pm and the number of live marine forecasts broadcast each day over VHF Channel 21?</p> <p>13(b) What, if any, consultations were made with local stakeholders prior to the decision to reduce the number of maritime forecasting broadcasts on VHF channel 21 from the Rockhampton WSO?</p> <p>13(c) Why was this decision made? What was the cost of providing the original service of 5 live crosses by a Bureau forecaster each day? What is the estimated saving, if any, resulting from the reduction in service to 4 crosses, one of which is done by an observer rather than a forecaster?</p> <p>13(d) Why has the number of forecasters employed at the Rockhampton WSO reduced from 3 down to 2 in recent years (not counting those periods when numbers increase due to military exercises)? Does the BOM anticipate any further reduction in the number of staff at the Rockhampton WSO?</p>	BOM	21/04/06
14	Written QoN	Carr	Lead contamination of water supply in office building	<p>There were a number of newspaper stories in late January about the fact that the Department had informed staff just before Christmas that water in its Parkes building was contaminated with lead levels recorded at 10 to 16 times accepted levels.</p> <p>14(a) Please outline what the Department has</p>	CSD	11/04/06

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				<p>done to respond to this issue.</p> <p>14(b) When was the Department first aware of the problem? Can you confirm that it was a result of monitoring conducted on 1December2005?</p> <p>14(c) Was this – as reported in the Canberra Times – the first time the building’s water had been monitored for lead levels?</p> <p>14(d) If so, why was there not previous monitoring and what prompted the monitoring that revealed the problem?</p> <p>14(e) The Canberra Times reported that the Department has asked Comcare to conduct an investigation, to report in mid-March. Is this correct? Is the report still expected in mid-March?</p> <p>14(f) What will happen once the report is received? Will it be made public? Has a timeframe been set for responding to Comcare’s report?</p> <p>14(g) When were staff first notified?</p> <p>14(h) What kind of information was provided to staff?</p> <p>14(i) How many staff have now had blood tests?</p> <p>14(j) How many staff in the affected office were pregnant at the time of their potential exposure?</p> <p>14(k) The media coverage indicates that experts differ as to whether blood tests are the best way to measure lead absorption into the body. Is the Department considering offering any other kind of test to people – especially pregnant women – who may be particularly concerned?</p> <p>14(l) Has the Department offered specific counselling to staff?</p> <p>14(m) Were the levels of any other contaminants in the water supply above the levels specified in Australian water quality guidelines?</p>		
15	Written QoN	Carr	Certified Agreement & AWAs	<p>15(a) What stage is the negotiation of the Department’s new Certified Agreement up to?</p> <p>15(b) Will the coverage of the new Certified Agreement change compared to the existing Agreement? If so, what are the changes?</p> <p>15(c) Is it the case that expeditioner employees engaged after 1 July this year will not be covered by the Agreement?</p> <p>15(d) Does this mean that the way the Department will only engage new expeditioner employees will be through AWAs?</p> <p>15(e) If not, how will expeditioner employees be employed and how will their conditions be determined?</p> <p>15(f) If so, what is the rationale for this</p>	CSD	28/03/06

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				<p>decision? How will the Department benefit from restricting the work choices of its employees or potential employees?</p> <p>15(g) Was the decision to exclude expeditioner employees from coverage under the Certified Agreement driven solely by some potential benefit identified by the Department, or has there been a directive from the Minister or DEWR for the Department to find ways to increase coverage by AWAs?</p>		
16	Written QoN	Carr	Certified Agreement & AWAs	<p>16(a) What is the Department's current position on AWAs?</p> <p>16(b) Who is offered an AWA under current arrangements?</p> <p>16(c) How many staff are currently on AWAs and what proportion of staff does this represent?</p> <p>16(d) How does this compare with other Departments?</p> <p>16(e) Is (this) indicative of what's to come under so-called WorkChoices across other Departments?</p> <p>16(f) How is the decision to exclude one group of employees from the CA consistent with APS values or the notion of employee choice?</p> <p>16(g) Until recently, many Departments have effectively restricted access to AWAs to higher level staff, whom one might expect to have stronger bargaining power than the average public servant. Would expeditioner employees fall into this category?</p>	CSD	28/03/06
17	Written QoN	Carr	Certified Agreement & AWAs	<p>17(a) Does the section of the draft CA that will apply to current expeditioner employees say that the decision to engage a person whose duties will be predominantly in Antarctica as an expeditioner employee may be varied to suit changed circumstances "provided it will not disadvantage the employee"? How will this type of protection be maintained when expeditioner employees are no longer covered by the CA?</p> <p>17(b) Can the Department assure future expeditioner employees (or their equivalent) that the bonuses paid to those undertaking extra duties, such as Search and Rescue Leader, Fire Chief or Boat Master at Macquarie Island, will remain?</p> <p>17(c) Will the principle that the Department "will ensure that expeditioner employees participate in learning and development activities ... that enable them to do their jobs effectively ..." still apply when expeditioner employees are no longer covered by the CA? How can future expeditioner employees be confident that the Department will ensure appropriate learning and development</p>	CSD	28/03/06

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				activities are pursued? 17(d) Does the Department have any plans to shift other identifiable groups of employees onto AWAs?		
18	Written QoN	Ludwig	Grants to Hillsong Church	How many grants have you issued to Hillsong Church, its associated corporations and entities? List name, price and duration of funding by department.	CSD All Divisions and Agencies	21/04/06
19	Written QoN	Carr	Future of Australia's Cities and Towns Summit	19(a) Is the Department aware of the Future of Australia's Cities and Towns Summit that was held in June 2004 and was convened by ACT Planning Minister Simon Corbell on behalf of the Planning and Local Government Ministers' Council? 19(b) Was the Department involved in planning for the Summit, attending the Summit or providing advice to the Government on the Summit outcomes? If so, what were the respective roles of DEH and DOTARS? 19(c) What coordinating or consultative mechanisms are in place between DEH and DOTARS in relation to the issues which go to the sustainability of Australia's cities and towns? 19(d) Are you aware that – at the last Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council (LGPMC) meeting in August 2005 – the Commonwealth declined to support the development of a National Action Framework containing ten areas of strategic importance that would contribute to a National Cities and Towns Policy? 19(e) Was the Department's advice sought prior to the LGPMC meeting when the Commonwealth's position was being determined?	EQD	18/04/06
20	92	Siewert	Coral bleaching	20(a) I am after some information on coral bleaching. There was the big talk about coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef a couple of weeks ago. The situation sounds pretty bad. I am interested to know what the situation is in Ningaloo, if you are aware of it. If you are not aware of what the situation is, is anybody looking? 20(b) Can you tell us about the other Commonwealth marine parks in the northern waters and the extent of coral bleaching in those areas well? Mr Oxley—I would be happy to take that question on notice and come back to you on that one.	MD	05/05/06
21	Written QoN	Joyce	GBRMPA preamble / Decision making process	I recognise the extensive consultation process which took place to provide industry groups and interested parties with input into the GBR zoning. I do however have general concerns about how the final decisions were reached and the perceived lack of	GBRMPA	11/04/06

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				<p>consideration and forethought to the impacts to the commercial and recreational fishing industries and their associated communities. I am of the understanding that GBRMPA has placed restrictions on the commercial mud crabbing industry ie 4 apparatus per license in the yellow zones, and minimal restriction of apparatus for recreational fishers. I am also of the understanding that the DEH EPBC Act has supported the mud crabbing industry as sustainable. I would like to know what decision making process was followed by GBRMPA to determine what is considered a sustainable number of apparatus? What was the scientific evidence used to support the final decision? How was the mud crabbing industry consultation with GBRMPA considered in this process?</p>		
22	Written QoN	Joyce	Scientific evidence	<p>I have concerns that rezoning in some instances, has occurred to favour green political preferences without sufficient scientific evidence to support the decision. Can GBRMPA produce the scientific evidence to support their decision for every zone?</p>	GBRMPA	11/04/06
23	Written QoN	Joyce	Bowling Green Bay	<p>I am particularly interested in the Bowling Green Bay decision to protect the mammals in the bay by reducing the mud crabbing licenses. What process did GBRMPA follow to ascertain sufficient scientific evidence to warrant a green zone for conservation purposes, in areas known to be important to commercial fishing?</p>	GBRMPA	04/05/06
24	Written QoN	Joyce	Consultation	<p>I understand that extensive consultation was undertaken with a broad range of industry groups related to the GBR. I also understand that such groups were forthcoming in providing important local information on areas of significance to both conservation and fishing. How did GBRMPA consider this information and try to limit impacts which are now evident in communities?</p>	GBRMPA	19/04/06
25	Written QoN	Joyce	Code of Conduct	<p>19(a) Under the public service code of conduct I am of the understanding that the public can not be knowingly deceived. Is GBRMPA aware of this code of conduct? 19(b) Did GBRMPA staff knowingly deceive the public by collecting information on important commercial fishing areas and use this information to identify the green zones? Who within GBRMPA would be held accountable for this action if it were the case?</p>	GBRMPA	18/04/06
26	Written QoN	Joyce	Revision of RAP boundaries	<p>After closing 33% of commercial and recreational fishing via green zones, the GBRMPA is now proposing to close the only safe anchorage in the Lady Elliot area. Is the</p>	GBRMPA	11/04/06

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				GBRMPA therefore proposing their judgement in delivering RAP was flawed, and there is now a need to revise the RAP boundaries and their intended use?		
27	Written QoN	Joyce	Restructure package	<p>The GBRMPA delivered a document to the Commonwealth Parliament that stated the impact from RAP would be between \$0.52 and \$2.59million (total impact, including flow on)and, immediately following the introduction of the plan, the Bureau of Rural Sciences conducted a study that showed the impact would be at least \$10 million dollars, in lost landed catch alone. To date, however the Restructure Package has cost the federal government over\$50 million dollars, and is continuing to increase.</p> <p>27(a) How does the GBRMPA explain that the actual cost to the Commonwealth Government and the Australian Community is already above \$50 million dollars, and rising?</p> <p>27(b) Does the GBRMPA believe that this margin of error is acceptable?</p> <p>27(c) Does the GBRMPA believe its knowledge and balance of social and economic impacts was adequate for the implementation of a plan such as RAP?</p>	GBRMPA	24/04/06
28	Written QoN	Joyce	Recreational fishing industry compensation	After identifying the impact to the commercial fishing industry and allocating a compensation package why was this process not also undertaken for the recreational fishing industry?	GBRMPA	28/03/06
29	Written QoN	Joyce	Displaced commercial fishermen	I am also of the understanding that the yellow zones along coastal areas are resulting in commercial fishing encroaching on recreational fishing areas up streams. How does GBRMPA intend to manage the displaced commercial fishermen and the impacts to other users?	GBRMPA	11/04/06
30	103	Carr	Overseas travel by departmental officers and members of the Heritage Council or Heritage Commission	Would you mind taking on notice to check information as to what travel officers have undertaken, either Department of the Environment and Heritage staff or members of the Heritage Council or the Heritage Commission, in relation to heritage matters since 1996. What overseas work has there been?	HD	10/05/06 + 2 attach'ts
31	104	Carr	Cultural Heritage in Iraq	<p>I understand that there are people who have great interest in these matters, particularly given the looting that occurred following the invasion of the museums and the like. But I just want to be clear about the issue. You are saying that the Commonwealth of Australia, through your department, has had no involvement in heritage work in Iraq?</p> <p>Mr Burnett—It has just been brought to my attention that we may have contributed to</p>	HD	11/04/06



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				something some time ago. I am afraid that is information I do not have personally. I will take it on notice.		
32	105	Carr	Cultural Heritage in Iraq	Thank you. I am particularly interested because I would like to know how much money was spent on the group and, in particular, comments made at the time by the minister that Australia was working with Interpol and international heritage bodies to stop the trafficking in Iraqi artefacts. What actions were taken with regard to that? Were any documents produced? Is there any evidence that this group actually did anything that would justify the minister's press release of 19 May 2003? By the way, the identification there is KO111, so presumably on the archives of the department's website at least we can establish that this event occurred. ... Could I have a copy of any reports that were prepared. Obviously given your response, I notice that the Heritage Council annual report for 2002-03 referred to the reference group report being considered by the government. What action was taken with regard to that matter? Did any member of the department or the heritage Commission or any other government officials visit Iraq-that is why I asked the first question-as part of this project? Who did they meet and who met the costs? What were the outcomes of their visits? Were any consultancies undertaken?	HD	11/04/06 + 1 attach't
33	105 and 110	Carr	Travel on Heritage issues	I have asked previous questions in that regard. That will pick up whatever travel has been undertaken on heritage issues since 1996. I am interested to know, if you or one of your officials could assist me, Minister, with a reference. The (Departmental) annual report of 2002-03 spoke of a payment of \$30,000 to a company known as The Distillery Pty Ltd for Iraqi heritage. Can anyone assist me on that matter? 33(a) I would like to know what the \$30,000 was spent on and why it was that the company, The Distillery Pty Ltd, received this money. I am interested to know particularly about this company because I do not believe they have a strong expertise in heritage. 33(b) Finally, I return to the department's annual report of 2002-03 and the \$30,000 to The Distillery. Can you confirm that The Distillery specialises in security and law enforcement information technology? ... I presume in that process you can explain to me what connections they have with heritage. It could well be that it is part of your Interpol work, but I would be interested to know what	HD	11/04/06

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				the records show on that matter.		
34	107	Carr	Mr Harley	On how many occasions has Mr Harley excused himself from deliberations of the council when considering matters in which he has a direct or indirect financial interest? Minister: I suspect we can take that on notice.		11/04/06
35	109	Carr	Extensions to the nomination period for the National Heritage List	35(a) Can we have a list of those (35 occasions the Minister has granted extensions)? 35(b) Could I have a list of the 24 that are on the heritage list and the 24 that have been rejected?	HD	24/04/06 + 3 attach'ts
36	110	Siewert	Shark Bay World Heritage Area	36(a) What is the hold-up? The area (Shark Bay World Heritage Area) was nominated in 1991 or 1992 and that plan has been in draft form, as far as I am aware, for at least five years, if not longer. 36(b) When you are taking that on notice, can you tell me how close it is to finalisation and what are the hold-ups. It has been, I am sure, longer than five years. I am aware that there were some issues with regard to mining and the Commonwealth requiring WA to deal with some mining issues. I fully support the Commonwealth, if that is still the position they are taking. But I would like to know why it is still being held up.	HD	11/04/06
37	Written QoN	Carr	Climate Change	37(a) What new actions have been undertaken since November 2004 by the Commonwealth Government (as opposed to State Governments) to cut greenhouse emissions so that we will avoid a 23% increase by 2020? 37(b) Is it possible Australia may not meet its Kyoto target? Under what circumstances could that happen?	ICED	30/03/06
38	128	Carr	Solar Cities	Can the department provide advice on who makes up the consortia for each of the 11 shortlisted applicants, as outlined in the press release of 5 December? Mr Sterland—We will take that on notice. We will just have to look at the commercial-in-confidence issues associated with that and we will respond.	ICED	28/03/06
39	124	Carr	Renewable energy	Senator Ian Campbell—I will finalise that point. You are better off looking at the outcomes of that policy process. Look at the outcomes of a policy that is internationally recognised as a fair, sensible and balanced one. It gives support and policy measures across a portfolio of energy types from existing fossil fuels, migrating to gas to lower greenhouse gases and support for renewables in very identifiable ways to fast-track R&D. It is a balanced, sensible policy. So that is one outcome. The other outcome is to look at the pure dollars. <u>I will get Mr Borthwick to go into it.</u>	ICED	11/04/06

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				<u>We might have to give you something on notice.</u> We could actually give you an assessment of the pure dollar support to the renewables sector under our policies over the last three or four years versus what fossil fuels get.		
40	120	McLucas	Climate Change - Impact on citizens in the Torres Strait	<p>I was wondering if the Australian Greenhouse Office has done any research on the impacts of climate change not on the people of Tuvalu but on Australian citizens who live in the Torres Strait.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS—you would recognise that an increase of nine centimetres will significantly impact on those people. I was wondering if either the book the minister launched or the risk and vulnerabilities report can give me any indication of what you think might happen to the people of the Torres Strait.</p> <p>Mr Bamsey—It is a very reasonable question. Since we do not have the specific information here, we will look at what we have done. We will get back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator CARR—While you are there, can you look at what is happening in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands as well?</p> <p>Mr Bamsey—Certainly.</p>	ILAD	11/04/06
41	Written QoN	Carr	Water	<p>41(a) In relation to water policy, what is the division of policy responsibilities between PM&amp;C and Dept of Agric Forestry and Fisheries and DEH?</p> <p>41(b) What is the framework for the Government's policy on water? Is there an inter-departmental committee or working group to co-ordinate policy with Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Department of Environment &amp; Heritage?</p> <p>41(c) What is the role of Malcolm Turnbull, the PM's Parl Sec, in relation to water policy? Does he receive briefings from DEH, or is he involved in other ways?</p> <p>41(d) On 25 January, after being appointed Parl Sec, Turnbull said "The federal government is committed to a more sustainable approach to the use of water and that includes a greater emphasis on recycling". What is the Government's policy on recycled water for use in urban areas? Is DEH involved in any way in developing Govt policy on recycled water?</p> <p>41(e) Toowoomba's dams are down to 27%. The local Council have a proposal before the National Water Commission for funding assistance from the Smart Water fund for water recycling. Will the Government support this proposal. If not, why not?</p> <p>41(f) What is the policy and funding decision making process for proposals such</p>	LWCD	24/04/06

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				<p>as those from Toowoomba Council? If the local community appears divided and the relevant local Council strongly supports it, what assessments does the Federal Government make in deciding whether to co-fund it?</p> <p>41(g) Given NWI objective 6 (to ensure healthy, safe and reliable water supplies and encourage the re-use and recycling of wastewater), if the science shows it is healthy and safe, what other considerations are being made?</p> <p>41(h) Is DEH involved in any way in the assessment of water quality for recycling?</p>		
42	Written QoN	Carr	Reef Water Quality	<p>42(a) Why did the Minister accredit the Fitzroy Basin natural resource management plan when that plan fails to set measurable water quality targets? Is this consistent with the accreditation guidelines for regional natural resource management?</p> <p>42(b) On what scientific basis does the NRM group believe its water quality targets framework will deliver water quality outcomes consistent with the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan?</p> <p>42(c) What progress has been made by the Fitzroy Basin Association to develop numeric nutrient load targets for protecting Great Barrier Reef water quality?</p> <p>42(d) Does the Minister consider the Fitzroy Basin Association's aspirational water quality target - no net loss in regional water quality by 2050 – an environmentally responsible target?</p> <p>42(e) Does the Minister consider a target that endorses impaired water quality for a further 45years (i) an aspirational target that reflects views held by the Australian and international community (ii) a target consistent with the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan?</p> <p>42(f) Does the Government endorse the Fitzroy Basin Association's aspirational target for reef water quality?</p> <p>42(g) Is the Minister aware of the body of research undertaken by the Coastal CRC for the Fitzroy region?</p> <p>42(h) Do other sub-catchments of the Great Barrier Reef benefit from a similar body of coastal science? If so, which catchments?</p> <p>42(i) On 28 November 2005 you announced preparation of water quality improvement plans for a series of Great Barrier Reef sub-catchments. Why to date are no such plans being developed within the jurisdiction of the Fitzroy Basin Association? Have you invited the Association to develop such a plan? If not, why not? What is the regional NRM</p>	LWCD	11/04/06

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				<p>group's reason for not developing water quality improvement plans?</p> <p>42(j) What in the Government's view is an acceptable timeframe for achieving sustainable nutrient load targets for the Great Barrier Reef?</p> <p>42(k) When will the Government require the Fitzroy Basin Association to develop pollutant load targets for the reef catchments within its jurisdiction? What incentives is the Government employing to encourage the Association to develop nutrient load targets for the Reef?</p> <p>42(l) Is the Government committed to the regional NRM program beyond the extension of the NHT?</p>		
43	Written QoN	Carr	Coastal Policy	<p>43(a) On 24 July 2005, the Minister suggested he was going to strip local councils and State Governments of coastal planning powers. When will that legislation be introduced? Will a policy statement be released? If so, what is the timeframe for that?</p> <p>43(b) Has the Government produced any new policy material that backs up the Minister's stated concern for our coasts?</p> <p>43(c) Could you advise what action the Government has taken to implement its 2001 election promise to develop a national coastal policy?</p> <p>43(d) Is the Government looking to establish a national action plan on coastal issues? If not, why not?</p> <p>43(e) At what point would the Government consider legislative or regulatory measures to protect the Great Barrier Reef from catchment pollution?</p>	LWCD	11/04/06
44	Written QoN	Carr	Sea Change taskforce	<p>44(a) Can you describe the Department's involvement in the work of the National Sea Change Taskforce, if any? Please provide details.</p> <p>44(b) Are there any formal coordination arrangements between DOTARS and DEH in relation to the work of the Sea Change Taskforce?</p>	LWCD	28/03/06
45	Written QoN	Carr	Sea Change taskforce	<p>In an article in the Australian Financial Review on 14 January, Alan Stokes, the Executive Director of the National Sea Change Taskforce, indicated that there would be a workshop on 10 February, bringing together 25 senior officials from state and territory planning and environment departments, as well as high-ranking federal representatives:</p> <p>45(a) Was DEH involved in this workshop?</p> <p>45(b) If so, which officers attended?</p> <p>45(c) What were the outcomes of this workshop and what implications do they</p>	LWCD	31/03/06

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				have for the Commonwealth Government?		
46	135	Siewert	Environmental Flows in the Darling	You answered a question on notice of mine on environmental flows in the Darling. In answer to one of my questions, you said that the environmental flows in the Darling have not been fully determined because New South Wales and Queensland were developing water sharing plans. Another goes into more detail. 46(a) What is the progress on New South Wales developing their water sharing plans? 46(b) I am wondering how it affects the planning process.	LWCD	24/04/06
47	138	McLucas	GBR Structural Adjustment Package	How many recommendations from QRAA to DEH have not been accepted?	MD	28/03/06
48	Written QoN	Siewert	Regional Marine Planning	How does the new approach to regional marine planning under Section 176 differ from the Commonwealth's previous approach to marine planning?	MD	28/03/06
49	Written QoN	Siewert	Regional Marine Planning	What is the expected date for completion of the Northern Regional Marine Plan?	MD	18/04/06
50	Written QoN	Siewert	Marine Protected Areas	Does the Commonwealth have a timetable for implementation of the Commonwealth component of the National Representative System of MPAs which it plans to establish by 2012? If yes, please provide details	MD	11/04/06
51	Written QoN	Siewert	Water Quality Improvement Plans (Ref to Nov 2005 QoN 51)	51(a) Have any water quality improvement plans now been finalised? 51(b) If so, which ones? 51(c) If not, when is completion expected? 51(d) How much funding has been allocated to developing these plans?	LWCD	11/04/06
52	Written QoN	Carr	WA Natural Resource Mgt	52(a) Please indicate where in the South Coast WA Investment Plan there is information on programs, projects and funding allocated directly for: (i) protecting the Lake Gore Ramsar wetland site, including from catchment based activities; (ii) protecting the Lake Warden Ramsar wetland site, including from catchment based activities; (iii) protecting the Man in the Biosphere Reserve listed Fitzgerald River National Park, including from catchment based activities? 52(b) What proportion of the funding allocated to the South Coast WA Investment Plan is targeted at directly benefiting the conservation management of matters of national environmental significance in that NRM region? 52(c) Based on the Regional Investment Plan, what does the Government believe it is purchasing that is a priority for the	NRMPD	21/04/06

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				<p>Commonwealth? Where can a member of the public find information on the projects funded through this investment plan? Based on this investment plan, how is the Government satisfied this plan represents a sound investment?</p> <p>52(d) Please provide a list of the projects that will be funded under the South Coast WA Investment Plan, the indicative budgets for those projects (including Commonwealth contribution), and the contribution those projects will make to achievement of resource condition targets (this can include the prevention of further decline in resource condition).</p> <p>52(e) What proportion of Commonwealth funding in this Plan will be spent on (i) administration, coordination and facilitation, (ii) education and awareness raising, (iii) monitoring and reporting (iv) on-ground activities (v) capacity building, and (vi) planning? What proportion will be spent against each matter for target?</p> <p>52(d) On what basis did the Minister consider this Investment Plan to be sufficient for approval?</p>		
53	Written QoN	Carr	Landcare	<p>53(a) How are Landcare projects currently funded by the Howard Government?</p> <p>53(b) Is any direct funding support provided to landcare groups around Australia by the Department of Environment and Heritage or any other Commonwealth Government Department? If not, why not?</p> <p>53(c) If there is direct funding support to landcare groups, please provide information on all such funding, including which groups are funded and how much they are funded?</p>	NRMPD	11/04/06 + 1 attach't
54	140	Siewert	Review on NAP	<p>My understanding is that at least 10 reviews have been commissioned by the joint agencies on NAP and a whole range of programs. I know what they are because I asked about them last time. I want to know whether they have reported and when those reports will be publicly available. There are 10 reviews...Minister, is it your intention, as one of the ministers, that they be publicly released?</p>	NRMPD	21/04/06
55	Written QoN	Carr	Organisational reviews in Kakadu and Uluru National Parks	<p>55(a) What stage are the organisational reviews in relation to Kakadu and Uluru National Parks reviews up to?</p> <p>55(b) How are staff being consulted and involved in the review processes?</p> <p>55(c) Is it expected that these reviews will result in changes to the number of Ranger positions in the parks?</p> <p>55(d) What assurance can the Department give staff and the public that the safety and environmental integrity of Uluru and Kakadu</p>	PAD	28/03/06

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				will be upheld?		
56	93	Carr	Review of Kakadu and Uluru National Parks	What is the form of consultation with staff? Mr Cochrane—Pretty intensive, is my understanding. The consultant team has actually been in the park on and off over the last couple of months. I could not tell you how many, but if you want some specific details about numbers of meetings, et cetera, I could provide that on notice.	PAD	11/04/06
57	94	Siewert	Environmental rehabilitation on Christmas Island	57(a) How much have you managed to rehabilitate? Mr Cochrane—I do not have the exact figures in front of me, but it is of the order of 150-170 hectares. Could I take that on notice and I can give you a detailed answer? 57(b) I am also interested in the type of rehabilitation that is occurring. What sorts of species are going back? What percentage of the original vegetation is included in that suite? Mr Cochrane—We only rehabilitate with native species. We reckon we have got a pretty fair handle because we have been at this rehabilitation on Christmas Island for over 10 years now. We are very confident that, with the way that we are doing rehabilitation, we will re-establish intact, mature rainforest eventually on the sites that we are rehabilitating. Senator SIEWERT—You said that you are going to get back to me. I take that on board. You reckon around 170 hectares; is that what you just said? Mr Cochrane—That is my guess, but I would rather answer that more accurately.	PAD	30/03/06
58	94	Siewert	Environmental rehabilitation on Christmas Island	So do you provide a regular report on that? Mr Cochrane—We would report back to Territories because the money actually comes through Territories, but there was a rehabilitation workshop held jointly with Territories, the mining company and ourselves late in January and a lot of these issues were raised there. I suspect there is a report into that workshop, if you are interested. Senator SIEWERT—Yes. I would be, very much so. If you can provide that, that would be good.	PAD	30/03/06 + 1 attach't
59	Written QoN	Ludwig	DPP briefs	59(a) How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05? 59(b) How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned?	PCD	11/04/06
60	Written QoN	Ludwig	Prosecutions	For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to:	PCD	11/04/06



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				60(a) Bring charges against the accused party 60(b) Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges 60(c) Return the brief for no further action		
61	Written QoN	Ludwig	Formal Complaints to DPP	Did the department or agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? If so, give details.	PCD	11/04/06
62	Written QoN	Ludwig	Informal Complaints to DPP	Did the department or agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? If so, give details.	PCD	11/04/06
63	87	McLucas	Review of the GBRMPA	Could the committee at some stage get a list of those people who were invited to the various meetings? Is that appropriate? Mr Borthwick—That will be published in our report. Senator Ian Campbell—We will make it available to the committee. Mr Borthwick—We will indicate who we received submissions from and who we actually spoke to.	PCD	28/03/06
64	Written QoN	Carr	SHFT Org Review - Consultation	64(a) Is the Minister aware the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust) has undertaken and organisational review? 64(b) Were the Trust Board Members formally advised of the decision to conduct an organisational review? 64(c) Were the Trust Board Members formally advised of the subsequent outcomes of the organisational review? 64(d) Were Trust staff advised at a staff meeting that the organisational review was not for the purposes of reducing the number of jobs within the organisation? 64(e) Were staff on extended leave or maternity leave formally advised of the decision to conduct an organisational review? 64(f) Were staff on extended leave or maternity leave given an opportunity to contribute to the organisational review? 64(g) Were staff on extended leave or maternity leave advised of the impacts (if any) the review may have on their employment?	SHFT	03/05/07
65	Written QoN	Carr	SHFT Org Review - Consultancy Services	65(a) What was the procurement method for the provision of consultancy services relating to an organisational review? 65(b) What was the expected value of the procurement? 65(c) Are the consultancy services deemed a 'Covered Procurement' requiring compliance with the Mandatory Procurement Procedures – Division 2 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines – January 2005? 65(d) How many companies tendered on the provision for consultancy services relating to an organisational review? 65(e) Is the company carrying out the	SHFT	03/05/07

Q No	ECITA Page	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Agency/ Div'n	Rec'd
				<p>consultancy services one of the companies that tendered on the consultancy services?</p> <p>65(f) Is there a contract with the company conducting the organisational review and are there extension options beyond the completion of the review?</p> <p>65(g) Does the consultant have a prior relationship with any of the executive staff at the Trust?</p> <p>65(h) What was the brief (statement of requirements) given to the consultant and the time frame for conducting the organisational review?</p> <p>65(i) When did the consultant commence the organisational review? Is it complete and has it met the specified time frame?</p> <p>65(j) What is the total expenditure to date for consultancy services in relation to the organisational review?</p>		
66	Written QoN	Carr	SHFT Org Review - Process	<p>66(a) What consultative mechanisms were implemented to ensure workplace participation, in accordance with the staff determination for employees and employee representatives, during the organisational review?</p> <p>66(b) What steps were taken to ensure compliance with Australian Public Service (APS) best practice for conducting an organisational review?</p> <p>66(c) Were Comcare's guidelines in relation to occupation health and safety, specifically the prevention of physiological stress considered or adopted whilst conducting the organisational review?</p> <p>66(d) Was there a person independent to the organisational review available to assist and provide support to staff during the organisational review?</p> <p>66(e) Was there a Manager of human resources on staff during the organisational review?</p> <p>66(f) If No, is there now a Manager of human resources on staff?</p> <p>66(g) Were the same procedures used in conducting the organisational review applied to each department of the Trust?</p>	SHFT	03/05/07
67	Written QoN	Carr	SHFT Org Review - Outcomes	<p>67(a) How many positions were made redundant as a result of the organisational review? Please provide details of which positions were made redundant.</p> <p>67(b) What was the number of redundancies per department?</p> <p>67(c) How many new positions were created as a result of the organisational review?</p> <p>67(d) What are the numbers of new positions per department?</p> <p>67(e) What was the total salary value of the positions made redundant versus the total</p>	SHFT	03/05/07

Q No	ECITA Page	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Agency/ Div'n	Rec'd
				salary value of new positions? 67(f) How many staff were displaced as a result of the organisational review? 59(g) What steps were taken to assist displaced staff? 67(h) How many staff were redeployed within the Trust? 67(i) What redeployment options were offered to employees who were displaced or considered excess? 67(j) How many positions were upgraded? 67(k) How many displaced employees were successful in their application for the upgraded positions? 67(l) Were any positions considered for downgrading? 67(m) Were any of the positions for which staff were on extended or maternity leave made redundant? If yes, were they formally advised and did they receive termination pay? 67(n) How many staff whose positions were made redundant received four weeks notices as provided for in the staff determination? 67(o) Was the consultation process in relation to redundant (excess) employees followed in accordance with the staff determination? 67(p) What was the number of part-time positions (per department) prior to the commencement of the organisational review versus the current number of part-time positions (per department)? 67(q) How many resignations have been submitted since the commencement of the organisational review? 67(r) Have any departments been amalgamated? 67(s) Has the organisational review had an impact on productivity? If so, has that impact been positive or negative? What is the impact? 67(t) Will the target expenditure for capital works be achieved for the 2005/2006 financial year?		
68	Written QoN	Carr	SHFT Org Review - Recruitment	68(a) What recruitment process was adopted during the organisational review? 68(b) Was the same recruitment process applied to all positions, or did they differ between departments? 68(c) In accordance with APS recruitment guidelines, by what means were all persons eligible to apply for APS employment given that opportunity regarding vacancies within the Corporate Services department at SHFT? 68(d) How many positions were advertised in the Public Service Gazette? 68(e) Were there any positions <u>not</u> advertised	SHFT	03/05/07

Q No	ECITA Page	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Agency/ Div'n	Rec'd
				<p>externally?</p> <p>68(f) Did any member of any interview panel declare an actual, potential or potentially perceived conflict of interest during the recruiting process?</p> <p>68(g) Does any member, of any interview panel, have a previous association (directly or indirectly) with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC)?</p> <p>68(h) How many positions have been filled with persons with a previous association (directly or indirectly) with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC)?</p> <p>68(i) Of the successful applicants with a previous association (directly or indirectly) with HREOC, were any approached by any member of any interview panel, prior to the applicants making formal application for the positions and/or the positions being advertised?</p> <p>68(j) Did all the successful applicants meet the essential criteria for each of the positions advertised?</p>		