

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

18 October 2012

Question: SR49
Topic: Media Subscriptions
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

1. Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?
2. Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?
3. Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?
4. What was the 2011-12 cost for:
 - a) TV subscriptions
 - b) Newspaper subscriptions
 - c) Magazine subscriptions
5. Does the department/agency provide any media subscriptions to its Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries? If yes, provide details of what is provided and the cost this financial year to date and for 2011-12.

Answer:

The Department

1. The Department has not changed its pay TV subscription since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates.
 - a) N/A.
 - b) \$2,800.

2. Yes, there have been changes to the Department's newspaper subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates hearings.
 - a) The Department has increased the number of newspapers purchased. The Department now purchases more copies of The Canberra Times, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian and The Financial Review. The reason for the increase is due to the creation of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) support division and a number of restructures across the Department. The increase in newspapers will increase newspaper costs by approximately \$1,300 per annum.
 - b) \$7,360.63.
3. Yes, there have been changes to the Department's media subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates hearings.
 - a) The Department decreased the number and type of magazines. The Department now purchases fewer copies of BRW and The Economist. The reason for the decrease is to reduce costs across the Department. The reduction in magazines will save the Department approximately \$1,000 per annum.
 - b) \$20,272.91 on professional subscriptions and \$2,662.82 on magazines.
4. 2011-12 financial year costs:
 - a) Pay TV: \$9,573.80.
 - b) Newspaper: \$37,860.46.
 - c) Magazine: \$138,705.23.
5. The Department provides one subscription to the Minister's office. The subscription is for the Australian online. The cost for this financial year to date is \$47.20. The cost for the 2011-12 financial year was \$35.40.

ARENA

There has been no change to ARENA's media subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates hearings. Questions relating to the 2011-12 financial year are not applicable because ARENA was established on 1 July 2012.

Geoscience Australia

- 1-2. There has been no change to Geoscience Australia's (GA's) pay TV, newspaper or magazine subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates hearings. The cost this financial year to date:
 - Pay TV subscriptions: \$914.
 - Newspaper subscriptions: \$1,103.
3. Yes, there have been changes to GA's magazine subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates hearings. One subscription was cancelled and eight were migrated from print only or print+online to online only. The costs not incurred totalled \$11,251. The cancelled journal was *Izvestiya: Physics of the Solid Earth*. The journals migrated to online access only were: *Economic Geology*, *Exploration Geophysics*, *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, *Nature*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Palynology*, *Science* and *Spatial Source*.

4. 2011-12 financial year costs:
 - a) Pay TV: \$2,658.
 - b) Newspaper: \$2,032.
 - c) Magazine: \$337,395
5. N/A to GA.

Tourism Australia

- 1-2. There has been no change to TA's media subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates hearings.
3. The cost this financial year to date:
 - Pay TV subscriptions: \$1,716.
 - Newspaper & Magazine subscriptions: \$28,746.
4. 2011-12 financial year costs:
 - a) Pay TV: \$4,868.
 - b-c) Newspaper & Magazine: \$126,327.
5. N/A to TA.

National Offshore Petroleum Safety & Environmental Management Authority

- 1-3. There has been no change to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority's (NOPSEMA's) media subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates hearings.
4. 2011-12 financial year to date:
 - a) Pay TV: No expense.
 - b) Newspaper: No expense.
 - c) Magazine: \$61,412
5. N/A to NOPSEMA.

Australian Solar Institute

There has been no change to the Australian Solar Institute's (ASI's) media subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates hearings.