

## Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

## ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09 (February 2008)

## Index to Questions on Notice (QON)

Department of Climate Change

Note: the FPA Committee resolved that agencies provide answers to Questions on Notice by Thursday April 9, 2009.

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question	Comments/answer received
CC1	DCC	XENOPHON	P118-119	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON</b>—But it is uncharted territory—in a sense—with the WTO. Isn't it?</p> <p><b>Mr Comley</b>—The WTO has not looked at a precise Australian scheme for assistance to a set of industries— that is true. But the WTO implications of this were in the mix of considerations when the policy was designed. Can I just add something on the previous question. A colleague has brought to my attention that the IEA and the OECD have both produced reviews on the Australian ETS design compared with the European system. We would be happy to forward that material to you for your information.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON</b>—Perhaps it would be more appropriate if you forwarded it to the committee.</p>	29/4/09
CC2	DCC	BOSWELL	F&PA 103	<p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—Have all those countries undertaken to reduce emissions by specific targets?</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—By specific targets?</p> <p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Dr Parkinson</b>—President Obama has committed to reducing emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. The Chinese government has released a white paper climate change strategy which indicates a range of measures that they are undertaking.</p> <p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—So the answer is that they do not have specific emissions targets.</p>	29/4/09

				<p><b>Dr Parkinson</b>—Sorry, Senator, what I am saying is I do not actually have in my head exactly the contents of either the Chinese white paper or the Indian strategy. I do not know whether they have indicated that their actions would reduce emissions by a certain number of tonnes. We can take that on notice if you would like.</p>	
CC3	DCC	ABETZ	F&PA 122	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Could I ask, rather than winding down the clock: would the department please take on notice the article that appeared on page four of today’s <i>Australian</i>. I am not advocating one way or the other; I just want to know whether a person who seems to have some eminence in this field is correct. And, if he is not, I would like to know. If you could go through the assertions in that article and respond to them on notice, I would be much obliged.</p>	29/4/09
CC4	DCC	ABETZ	F&PA 125	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Is the department already fully staffed in preparation for the introduction of the ETS in 2010 or do we envisage employing more staff over the coming year and a half? If so, how many? You can take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Dr Parkinson</b>—I am happy to take that on notice. I will give you the details then. In short, we are still in the process of building up a regulator which will be spun out from the department.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Could you indicate, on notice, the number of jobs...</p>	29/4/09
CC5	DCC	ABETZ	F&PA 127	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—There are a whole lot of questions and answers in this that are completely unrelated to the question I asked. Look, let me move on, because time is very short. How much advertising money has been spent since 31 October 2008? I was given an update on notice and we were given figures up to 31 October. I would invite you to take on notice again how much has been spent since 31 October, and could you please then provide a cumulative total.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—I now have the answer to the question on notice that you are referring to.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Yes, thank you.</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—There is the paragraph that says ‘costs’.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Yes, the last dot point.</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—And you are asking for any additional costs beyond 31 October 2008?</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—For each of those categories?</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—That is right, on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—We can take that on notice. So that we are clear: for the five categories there you want costs over and above as in beyond 31 October 2008?</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—That is right.</p>	29/4/09

				<p><b>Senator Wong</b>—Thank you.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Together within the breakdown of costs which was kindly provided underneath in that second large paragraph.</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—If any additional?</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Yes.</p>	
CC6a-c	DCC	ABETZ	F&PA 129	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Thank you for that. Do we know how many calls were made to this call centre?</p> <p><b>Dr Parkinson</b>—We can find out for you.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Thank you. Would you also tell us the dates between which it was actually operational? Was it always intended to only operate it until 30 November?</p> <p><b>Dr Parkinson</b>—We will provide you with that information.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Was the contract terminated earlier than anticipated?</p> <p><b>Dr Parkinson</b>—We will provide you with that information.</p>	29/4/09
CC7	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC8	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC9a	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC9b	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC9c	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC9d	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC10a	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC10b	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC10c	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC10d	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC10e	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC11	DCC	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC12a	DCC	COONAN	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC12b	DCC	COONAN	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC13a	DCC	COONAN	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC13b	DCC	COONAN	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC14	DCC	COONAN	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09

CC15a	DCC	FIFIELD	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC15b	DCC	FIFIELD	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC15c	DCC	FIFIELD	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC15d	DCC	FIFIELD	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC15e	DCC	FIFIELD	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC15f	DCC	FIFIELD	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC16	DCC	HUMPHRIES	Written	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC17	DCC	BROWN	Referred from DEHWA  ECA 56 24/2/09	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Are you going to let me finish, Minister? If you would not mind, give me the same courtesy you demanded for yourself. The question is: why is it that the government does not do the work to establish the impact of native vegetation clearance in Australia on climate change?</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—I think you will need to put that on notice to the Department of Climate Change. If you want me to take on notice your previous question, which was in relation to Minister Garrett’s knowledge, I can take that on notice reasonably because I am representing him, but the second question is for the portfolio of climate change.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—I will put both those questions on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator Wong</b>—One will need to be referred to the other committee.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—I will thank you for referring it, Minister.</p>	29/4/09
C18a	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
C18b	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
C18c	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
C18d	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
C18e	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
C18f	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
C18g	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC19a	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09

CC19b	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC19c	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC19d	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC19e	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC20a	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
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CC20d	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC21a	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC21b	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC21c	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC21d	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC21e	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC22a	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC22b	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC22c	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC22d	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC22e	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	Tfr. to DRET
CC22f	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from	See Attachment	Tfr. to DRET

			DEWHA		
CC22g	DCC	JOHNSTON	Tfr. from DEWHA	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC23a	DCC	WILLIAMS	Tfr. from DITRDLG	See Attachment	29/4/09
CC23b	DCC	WILLIAMS	Tfr. from DITRDLG	See Attachment	29/4/09

### Written Questions on Notice

#### **CC7–DCC (BIRMINGHAM)**

Did the Renewable Energy Council write to Mr Garrett prior to the announcement of the new rebate scheme for solar panels, urging him not to use the RECs as a basis for the rebate? If so, can the Department please elaborate on his concerns? Why was his advice ignored? Please provide a copy of the letter.

#### **CC8–DCC (BIRMINGHAM)**

Solar installers expressed concern that they will have to pay the home owner the thousands of dollars up front for the RECs. Is that true? What happens if the value of the RECs falls before they sell them?

#### **CC9(a-e)–DCC (BIRMINGHAM)**

In relation to the comparative benefits of the old rebate system under the Coalition and the proposed new Government system:

- a) How much will a person living in Melbourne who installs a one kilowatt solar system actually receive in the hand as payment by an average solar installer or retailer?
- b) Is it technically possible that a person in Melbourne buying a one kW system could be \$4500-\$5000 worse off than under the previous Coalition rebate system which provided an \$8000 rebate to all?
- c) How does this compare with the modelling by Colin Gillam, of Melbourne company Solar Sunwerx, who found that consumers could end up with almost \$5000 worth of extra costs than under the current scheme, depending on where they live and the size of the system installed?
  - a. In a 29 January report in *The Australian* newspaper, Mr Gillam found that people installing solar systems in Melbourne could be up to \$4600 worse off, while those in other state capitals could find themselves out of pocket by up to \$4000.
  - b. Could these figures be correct? If not, please provide the modelling supporting any dispute of the figures?
- d) Please provide modelling which shows exactly what rebate home owners would receive as a rebate under the new scheme, for each capital city, and for solar units of 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 and 3kW.

#### **CC10(a-e)–DCC (BIRMINGHAM)**

- a) What was the cost of the Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates?
- b) How many Ministerial Staff *and* Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for each Community Cabinet meeting?
- c) What was the total cost of this travel?
- d) What was the total cost to the Department of the Community Cabinet?
- e) In relation to all Community Cabinet meetings for calendar year 2008, please detail attendance records – Ministerial and all Ministerial and Departmental staff – together with travel, accommodation and any other costs arising.

#### **CC11–DCC (BIRMINGHAM)**

What roles and responsibilities will be taken on by the newly appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change?

#### **CC12(a-b)–DCC (COONAN)**

- a) How much did each department and agency spend in 2007-08 on:

- a. Consultants in total
  - b. ITC Consultants
  - c. Legal Consultants
  - d. HR Consultants
  - e. Accounting Consultants
- b) What was the average cost per hour for each department of the above A-E?

**CC13(a-b)–DCC (COONAN)**

- a) How much is it estimated that each department and agency will spend in 2008-09 on:
- a. Consultants in total
  - b. ITC Consultants
  - c. Legal Consultants
  - d. HR Consultants
  - e. Accounting Consultants
- b) What is the average cost per hour for each department and agency of the above A-E?

**CC14–DCC (COONAN)**

Over each year of the forward estimates, how much will each department and agency spend on:

- A) Consultants in total
- B) ITC Consultants
- C) Legal Consultants
- D) HR Consultants
- E) Accounting Consultants

**CC15(a-f)–DCC (FIFIELD)**

- a) Has the Department monitored the response to the ‘Think Climate. Think Change’ Campaign?
- b) If not, is it common to spend almost \$14m of tax payers money and not monitor the impact of the expenditure?
- c) If so, what impact has the \$13.951m ‘Think Climate. Think Change’ advertising campaign had on the general public?
- d) Can you provide full details of the research?
- e) What planning is underway for further advertising in the Department?
- f) Can you rule out any further advertising?

**CC16–DCC (HUMPHRIES)**

How many SES positions were there in this department as at:

- a) 24 November 2007
- b) 26 February 2009

**CC18(a-g)–DCC (JOHNSTON)**

In regards to the cancellation of the Government’s ETS inquiry

- a) Why was the inquiry cancelled only a week after it was announced?
- b) Why did the committee chair change his mind on the timing of when the inquiry would report by?
  - a. Why did he change from “the second half of 2009” to suddenly decide he wanted an interim report by “May 2009”?
- c) Was Minister Wong consulted by the committee chair, Craig Thomson, before he told Sky News on 19 February that his committee had decided to suddenly bring forward the date for the reporting of the inquiry?
- d) Who was consulted before the decision was taken?
- e) Was the department consulted?



- f) What advice did the department offer in relation to whether the inquiry should proceed or not?
- g) Did it support the House inquiry?

**CC19(a-e)–DCC (JOHNSTON)**

- a) Previously, the government has admitted plans to spend \$13.9 million on a marketing campaign on climate change – and that \$5.3 million remained unspent. Have you now spent the remaining \$5.3 million on your climate change marketing campaign?
- b) How has this been spent? Please provide details of which papers, television stations, which magazines, radio stations, etc.
- c) Has there been a follow up analysis of the success or value of the campaign? If so, please provide details. Please provide a copy of the report.
- d) If any funds remain to be spent, what is being planned? Will it still be spent? If so, what on?
- e) What other media or marketing campaigns are being planned by the Minister’s office or department?
  - a. What are the details of the purpose, timing and proposed cost. Please set out in a table.

**CC20(a-d)–DCC (JOHNSTON)**

- a) Now that the Garnaut process has been completed, can you please advise what the total cost of the Review was?
- b) Please provide a final break down of Professor Garnaut’s salary, administration and associated costs.
- c) Was an assessment carried out into the value or conduct of the inquiry?
- d) What were the results?

**CC21(a-e)–DCC (JOHNSTON)**

Penny Wong’s department spent \$18,000 to print the Garnaut Report on special paper from Italy. The paper was reported to be 80 per cent recycled and 20 per cent chlorine free pulp and from ‘well-managed’ forests.

- a) What emissions were expelled in transporting this paper to Australia?
- b) Why didn’t you use recycled Australian paper?
- c) What is wrong with using Australian paper?
- d) How much more did it cost to use the imported Italian paper?
- e) What other publications are you or your department using this Italian paper for?
  - a. Please provide details, costs, dates, etc

**CC22(a-g)–DCC (JOHNSTON)**

In regards to ZeroGen:

I refer to a letter from ZeroGen CEO Dr Anthony Tarr of 12 January 2009 who said that under the Government’s CPRS: “The perverse situation would be that projects such as ZeroGen would need to pay for the permits to emit whilst the dirtiest coal generators in Australia are given permits free of cost!” and that the CPRS would be a “significant barrier” to the development of clean coal in Australia.

- a) What have you done to overcome this disparity?
- b) What assistance will you provide to research organisations such as ZeroGen to ensure they are not unfairly dealt with under your emissions trading scheme?

Dr Tarr’s letter went on to say: “Minister Wong’s office seems to believe that the introduction of a CO2 price will provide the only necessary impetus to developing low-emissions technologies – but ignores the fact of economic and practical reality that alone this will simply not be enough.”

- c) Do you concede that your office has failed to alleviate the concerns of one of the leading clean coal research facilities in Australia, praised by the Prime Minister, who at the time said clean coal was “critical for Australia’s economic environmental future.”
- d) How do such comments stack up in the face of such criticism of clean coal researchers?
- e) Why was the entire team of the Business Development and Corporate Affairs team at ZeroGen disbanded?
- f) Please provide details of the job losses
- g) Whose decision was it to retrench the workers?

**CC23(a-b)–DCC (WILLIAMS)**

- a) The CPRS proposes that passenger and truck transport emission costs will be offset for 3 and 1 years respectively, resulting in no cost increase to users. Since there is therefore no incentive to change, why will travel behaviour change to reduce transport emissions?
- b) The Government proposes to exclude emissions intensive trade exposed industries, offset road transport emission charges and compensate households (so the CPRS should perhaps be more accurately called an Omissions Trading Scheme). Consequently, cost effective emission reductions will not occur in these sectors and must instead occur by less efficient abatement in other sectors. What then is the increased cost to business and the community of the CPRS due to the most efficient abatement not being used?