

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Murray-Darling Basin - ACT Calculation

Senator: Senator Payne

Question reference number: 10

Type of Question: FPA, P76

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator PAYNE: One question on a specific detail that you provided in that report: how was the percentage breakdown arrived at for the Legislative and Governance Forum on the Murray-Darling Basin and how did the ACT cop 0.3 per cent?

Ms Cross: I would have to check that for you, I was not party to those discussions. It possibly has something to do with either their respective populations or the amount of water that flows through their jurisdiction.

Senator PAYNE: The part of the river system that flows through their jurisdiction.

Ms Cross: There would be some basis for it.

Senator PAYNE: I was hoping there would be. If you could you take that on notice, Ms Cross?

Ms Cross: Yes.

Answer:

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has advised that the contribution model for the states and territories for the full suite of Murray-Darling Basin Agreement programs, including the secretariat costs for the Legislative and Governance Forum on the Murray-Darling Basin, is based on a range of historical funding formulae.

Jurisdictions contributed at different rates to previous Murray-Darling Basin programs, reflecting their level of involvement or benefit. The ACT's contribution is mostly related to its historical involvement in natural resource management programs and translates to 0.3 per cent of the total contributions for 2012-13.