

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio
Department of Climate Change
Budget Estimates Hearing–May 2009

Written question reference: CC26a-i

Outcome/Output: Response to climate change

Topic: Overseas Travel

Hansard Page: Written

Question: (Senator Birmingham)

- a) Have the Ministers (Parliamentary Secretary) travelled overseas on official business in 2008-09?
- b) If so, where was the travel, what was the purpose and what was the duration?
- c) What was the total cost of:
 - a. Travel
 - b. Accommodation, and
 - c. Any other expenses?
- d) How many ministerial staff or family accompanied the Ministers (Parliamentary Secretary)?
- e) For these staff (please outline their position)/family what was the cost of:
 - a. Travel
 - b. Accommodation, and
 - c. Any other expenses?
- f) How many officers from the Department accompanied the Ministers (/Parliamentary Secretary)?
- g) In relation to these Departmental officer (please outline their position), what was the total cost of:
 - a. Travel
 - b. Accommodation, and
 - c. Any other expenses?
- h) Were any costs or expenses, as covered above, met by private companies, unions or other organisations? If so, please provide details.
- i) Please detail total travel expenses met by the Department. In relation to all departmental travel expenses, please provide estimated resulting carbon emissions. Were any offsets purchased? If so, how many and what cost?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b-g) Please refer to Attachment A.
- h) No.
- i) From 1 July 2007 to 31 May 2008, total Department travel expenses were \$4,170,111.25. Calculating emissions from government travel is complex and difficult to do in a credible fashion. The Government already reports direct greenhouse gas emissions from selected aviation activities through annual declarations on fuel usage and associated emissions in the energy use in Australian Government Operations report, including the fuel consumed in the operation of the VIP aircraft fleet. Offsets were not purchased.