

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Budget Estimates 25 May 2011

Question: 71

Topic: Christmas Island Infrastructure Expenditure

Asked By: Senator CASH

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 2

I refer to the answer provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to QoN 327 from February Additional Estimates which states "Christmas Island has been administered by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government since its creation in September 2010." Please provide a breakdown of expenditure by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government with respect to Christmas Island from September 2010 to date

Answer:

The Department's expenditure on Christmas Island forms part of the Services to Indian Ocean Territories Program which includes both Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The Department's recurrent expenditure, from its creation in September 2010 until 31 March 2011, on the Services to Indian Ocean Territories Program was \$50.1 million.

This recurrent expenditure for Christmas Island can be broken down into \$2.8 million for local staff and administration; \$7.2 million for essential services such as power generation and water supply; \$16.8 million for state level services such as education, hospital and medical services; \$3.0 million for state type grants including Financial Assistance Grants to the Shire Councils and grants for economic development; and \$2.8 million for marine and air transport contracts to connect the Islands to mainland Australia.

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A further \$14.0 million in capital expenditure on Christmas Island for the period includes expansion of the power generation capacity for \$13 million, as part of an ongoing project; health and medical replacement equipment for \$0.2million; and replacement of potable water infrastructure for \$0.8 million.