

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009–10 —October 2009
Questions on Notice (QON) index—Department of Climate Change

Answers to the QON taken or submitted during the Supplementary Estimates hearings, are due on Friday, 4 December 2009.

Written Questions on Notice
Department of Climate Change

CC1(a–d)–DCC – (Bernardi)

(In relation to House of Representatives Question on Notice 849, 9 Sept 2009)

At the Estimates hearings on 19 October, the Secretary of the Department mentioned that his stay at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi was paid for by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Federal Government, and not by the Australian Government. Even though it wasn't paid for by the Australian Government, there should be some record of the following:

- a) What was the accommodation cost of the Secretary's stay in the Emirates Palace?
- b) What was the cost of any incidentals associated with this stay (eg food, beverages, all other incidentals)?
- c) Did the UAE Federal Government pay for the incidentals?
- d) What was the total cost of the Secretary's stay at the Emirates Palace?

CC2(a–e) – DCC – (Ludlam)

Regarding the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme:

- a) How does the Government intend to investigate breaches of the CPRS?
- b) What penalties are provided for large carbon emitters that breach the CPRS?
- c) Could a Director of a company that breaches the CPRS be gaoled, and if so, under what provisions of the draft CPRS bill package?
- d) Will there be a mechanism whereby individuals or firms could inform law enforcement about another firm breaching CPRS requirements?
- e) What resources has the Government provided to the Australian Federal Police to enforce the CPRS?

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Questions on Notice (QON) index—Department of Climate Change

QON No.	Department	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question	Date answer received
CC3a	DCC	Abetz	Hansard 19/10/09 Page 101	<p>Senator ABETZ—...Minister, there was a [question on notice], reference CC18, Hansard page F&PA49, from the May hearings where I asked about an article in the <i>Australian</i> newspaper of 25 March 2009 in relation to whether or not you had met with Mr Evan Thornley...</p> <p>The question could have been interpreted as including what was discussed, so can I reframe that question and simply ask whether or not you met with Mr Thornley as reported in the paper, without traversing what may have been or may not have been discussed.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator Wong—...I would like to make the observation that I do not believe that this particular individual nor any company with which the individual is associated has received a grant from my department. I might be corrected on that. I certainly do not recall having signed off on such a grant. If that is the question, we can certainly take that on notice, and I suppose in that context it might be relevant as to whether I met with them...</p>	
CC3b	DCC	Abetz	Hansard 19/10/09 Page 102	<p>Senator ABETZ—...But this is a matter that was asserted in the media, in the <i>Australian</i>, that suggested that Project Better Place, which is a business with which Evan Thornley is associated, had a meeting with you. I am asking you to verify a media story as opposed to just gratuitously trawling through your diary to find out whether there is any person of interest with whom you may have met...</p> <p>Senator Wong—I have given you a response and I have also asked you what is the basis for the public interest in this. If the imputation or inference is something untoward in terms of any grant, I am not sure what the inference is, I will be very clear with you: I do not recall this particular organisation receiving any moneys from my portfolio. I can check that with the secretary but I want to put that on the public record.</p>	
CC4	DCC	Abetz	Hansard 19/10/09 Pages 105, 106	<p>Senator ABETZ—In that case, if you are not aware of the details of it, could I draw your attention to it and invite you to respond on notice as to the ABARE report's assessment and as to whether you agree with their conclusions in relation to, in particular, dairy farmers and broadacre industries. It talks about the economic value of farm production declining between 0.3 per cent and 1.9 per cent in 2011, and the greatest effects in 2011 are expected in the dairy industry with the average farm income estimated to fall by around \$1,800. Anyway, if you can have a look and respond to that on notice, I would be obliged to you.</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—I am happy to do that...</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—...What I am asking you to do is to take on notice the ABARE report. If you think</p>	

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				<p>ABARE are deficient because they have not factored into account less pasture growth et cetera then tell us that on notice in your answer.</p> <p>[...] Senator ABETZ—If you can give us the detailed analysis, the next time around we can ask ABARE about the way they do business.</p>	
CC5	DCC	Abetz	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 106</p>	<p>Senator ABETZ—I am advised that power prices have risen a double digit percentage annual rate in several Australian states over the past year or two. Do you agree that that has been the case?</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—Are you talking wholesale or retail prices?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Both.</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—I would have to have a look at that.</p>	
CC6	DCC	Abetz	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 107</p>	<p>Senator ABETZ—...The question, as I am sure you well know, Dr Parkinson, was: what was the impact of that 30 per cent price rise on the demand for electricity in California?</p> <p>Mr Parkinson—I would have to go and have a look at the exact details. I am happy to do so.</p>	
CC7	DCC	Cormann	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 111</p>	<p>Senator ABETZ—Possibly, rather than swallowing a lot of time, have we got an analysis [of the Frontier Economics report]? You say it is not greener—fine. But what do you base that assertion on? When you say it is not going to be cheaper, what do you base that assertion on? Has there been a detailed, written rebuttal provided in relation to the Frontier analysis? They have whacked all their information into the public domain. Is the department willing to put its response fully in the public domain so that there can be a debate about these things? You guys may well be right, but on closer analysis, who knows, Frontier might be right.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Is there a specific piece of advice?</p> <p>Senator Wong—Senator Cormann, I had not finished. I was going to suggest that Mr Comley could provide some high-level comments and perhaps we could take on notice the provision of documentation to the committee that might assist with Senator Abetz’s request.</p>	
CC8	DCC	Cormann	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 111</p>	<p>Senator CORMANN—Advice to government is not, as you know, Minister, an appropriate public interest immunity claim. You have to give us an indication as to on what grounds you refuse to provide that information and what the harm to the public interest is going to be.</p> <p>Senator Wong—I will take it on notice to consider it.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—If you can take on notice that we would like to get a copy of that advice and, if you are not prepared to provide it, on what basis you are not prepared to provide it.</p>	

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CC9	DCC	Abetz	Hansard 19/10/09 Page 115	<p>Dr Parkinson—There were 2,170—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Australians registered for the CPRS green paper information sessions. And do you know what, Dr Parkinson? That is the figure for all the capital cities.</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—That is right.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—So why didn't you take into account the regional ones [in the climate change household action campaign evaluation report] and why did you just happen to skip over that as you were reading out the dot points?</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—Why it is in here, I cannot tell you.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator Wong—We will find out. Perhaps we could take on notice why the data has been aggregated in that sense.</p>	
CC10	PM&C	Ronaldson	Hansard 19/10/09 Pages 118, 119	<p>Senator RONALDSON— Madam Chair, I wonder whether the minister has in her briefing note any information as to the rather extraordinary removal of any mention of the China Australia Cooperation Society on any website anywhere—and indeed all references to Minister Burke being an honorary adviser being removed in the most thorough, thorough fashion. Indeed, there is now no record at all of that. Is there any mention of that in the briefing note, I wonder?</p> <p>Senator Wong—I have read everything with which I have been provided, Senator. I am happy to take it on notice...</p>	
CC11a	DCC	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09 Page 119	<p>Senator BERNARDI—...I refer to a question on notice, which is No. 849. It is in regard to the travel bill of \$119,196 and the description of hotels in which you stayed. One of the hotels in which you stayed was the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi. Can you tell me how much it cost to stay at the Emirates Palace?</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—I would have to check, but I think the cost was zero.</p>	
CC11b	DCC	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09 Page 119	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Do you recall if they picked up the cost of incidentals—food, beverages et cetera?</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—Can I take that notice? I am pretty sure that they provided some meals there. I do not recall what the department was out of pocket for.</p>	
CC12	DCC	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09 Page 120	<p>Senator BERNARDI—...In July it was reported that the climate change department paid approximately 27 per cent of its invoices later than 30 days late. What is the current percentage of bills that are paid late within the department?</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—We do not have that figure here. I will have to take that on notice.</p>	
CC13	DCC	Macdonald	Hansard 19/10/09	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—...I ask this question of your department—and it may have to be taken on notice—the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory prior to the last estimates in May said that 2.7 million</p>	

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			Pages 121, 122	<p>tonnes of carbon according to the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory were emitted during the Victorian bushfires. The bushfire CRC said it was something more like 70 to 105 million tonnes of carbon emissions from the bushfires. I was asking who could be right and why was there such a large difference? It was then that they said that I should ask the Department of Climate Change. I thought they were going to get the answer but apparently they did not. Could you give me that answer? Which is right? If my figures are correct and I have no reason to doubt them—the 2.7 million tonnes according to the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory and 70 to 105 million tonnes according to the bushfire CRC—why is there such a variation?</p> <p>Senator Wong—Senator, we will take that on notice...Can you clarify what you said at the very opening of your question about bushfires vis-a-vis greenhouse gas emissions? I assume you mean—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Carbon emissions.</p> <p>Senator Wong—Carbon emissions from bushfires vis-a-vis other mechanisms.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You are the people with the knowledge—</p> <p>Senator Wong—Yes, that is fine. I think we can probably provide that.</p>	
CC14	DCC	Macdonald	Hansard 19/10/09 Pages 123, 124	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—...did the New South Wales government give you theirs [regional Australia modelling]?</p> <p>Senator Wong—Not to my knowledge, and I would have to take that on notice. [...]</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—... Can I just make my question stand. It has been referred to in one of the other senate committees I was on—it was early in the debate but I can get the formal title and I am sure you will find out what it is—that work was done by the New South Wales government particularly referring to rural and regional New South Wales, and perhaps Australia. So if you could have a look at that and see if there is any reason now, as time has moved on—could I get you to take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—I am happy to take the question on notice...</p>	
CC15	DCC	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09 Pages 125, 126	<p>Senator RYAN—I appreciate that. I am interested in exploring the issue, fully understanding that different states will likely have different priorities with respect to their industrial bases, even their environmental bases. What if any specific changes has the state government of Victoria requested to the government's program?</p> <p>Senator Wong—I am not going to go into detail of what may or may not have been requested by a state government, other than what is on the public record. If you want me to do that, I will take that on notice and consider it... [...]</p>	

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				<p>Senator RYAN—...Could I ask that you also take this on notice. I am interested in the requests that have been made for changes to the government’s CPRS by the six state governments.</p> <p>Senator Wong—I will take it on notice and I will give it due consideration.</p>	
CC16	DCC	Boswell	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Pages 127, 128</p>	<p>Senator BOSWELL—The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation released a study which said that the incomes of farmers could fall by over 60 per cent at a carbon price of \$25 or by as much as 125 per cent at a carbon price of \$50, when and if agriculture becomes part of the ETS. You, no doubt, would have seen that study. Do you agree with it?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator Wong—Well, you would not expect, I would have thought, that we could immediately recall all the details of a particular report just because it has been in the public arena, given how many have been in the public arena. We are happy to take the question on notice...</p>	
CC17 (a–d)	DCC	Ronaldson	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 133</p>	<p>Senator RONALDSON—I accept that, but I was seeking to ascertain whether the terms of the competition were such that it was directed towards a particular point of view and whether that reflected the government’s point of view in relation to both the issues and the urgency. But if you are saying that it did not, then I accept that. Let me take you to the issue—and, again, if this has been raised by Senator Abetz previously, I apologise—concerning a contract notice CN502000, with some \$77,000 between the Department of Climate Change and Silver Sun Pictures Pty Ltd for the development of a climate change DVD. [a] Has this been raised before?</p> <p>Senator Wong—Could we take that on notice, Senator? We think we know what it is but we are not sure whether the reference that you have given refers to the DVD we think it does.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Climate change DVD, contract note IDC and 205000, 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009—</p> <p>Dr Parkinson—Was that July 2008 to June 2009?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Yes. \$77,000, climate change DVD, Silver Sun Pictures Pty Ltd.</p> <p>Senator Wong—Senator, I think we need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—When you are taking that on notice, Minister, could you please let me know [b] whether that DVD happened to advance a particular point of view on the issue of climate change and the actions needed to combat it. [c] And if the DVD did advance that view, does that point of view constitute an endorsement of the government’s position that its ETS legislation must be immediately passed by parliament? [d] Was notice taken whether the government intended any particular target audience for the DVDs, for example, primary or school children?...</p>	

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CC18		Ronaldson	Hansard 19/10/09 Page 133	<p>Senator RONALDSON— ...Then I take you to contract note CN205026, with some \$215,000, which is a contract from 23 March 2009 to 30 June 2009 with Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide Pty Ltd for public relations activities.</p> <p>Senator Wong—We will have to take that on notice...</p>	
CC19	DCC	Ronaldson	Hansard 19/10/09 Page 134	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Can I ask you to therefore take on notice contract CN 194839 for the sum of \$242,000 between the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and instinct and reason, a company of Surry Hills, for ‘market research to provide a more detailed understanding of our clients and their stakeholders and their behaviours, attitudes and information preferences in relation to climate change and drought’...I ask you please to take on notice what involvement the Department of Climate Change had in that contract, whether advice was sought by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and indeed whether there was any information provided back to the Department of Climate Change from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry following that market research.</p> <p>Senator Wong—...But in relation to the request to take on notice that contract and details associated with it, I am happy to do so.</p>	