

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS**

**PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO**

**Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Outcome: 1**

**Topic: RDA Appointment of Chair**

**Senator: ADAMS**

**Question reference number: 17**

**Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 47, Tuesday 19 October 2010**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Senator ADAMS**—And the chair? That was an appointment by the federal minister or—  
**Mr Carmichael**—Federal, in concert with the relevant state minister.

**Senator ADAMS**—The reason I ask that question is that during the election cycle, a chair was actually appointed to South West Regional Development Australia in Western Australia, and that person actually happened to be the Labor candidate for the seat of Forrest. I wished to ask that particular question because there was quite some concern about that particular appointment. I attended several of the forums that were run by the consultants before these organisations or bodies were set up. Could you tell me how much money was spent on consultants for those forums, please?

**Ms Foster**—Senator, we do not have that detail with us. We will have to take that on notice.

**Senator ADAMS**—All right. If you could take that on notice, please, specifically for Western Australia.

**Ms Foster**—Senator, you are talking about the consultations prior to the committees being established?

**Senator ADAMS**—That is correct, yes.

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**Answer:**

The Chair of Regional Development Australia South West committee was appointed on 11 December 2009. The federal election was announced on 17 July 2010 and on that day the Chair stood aside as chair. The Chair was not involved in the work of the RDA before resuming the position on 23 August 2010 after the federal election.

As part of the transition from Area Consultative Committees (ACC) to Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees, the then Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRDLG) requested in May 2008 that ACCs consult with their communities on improving engagement with regional committees, regional development organisations and local governments. No additional funding was provided to the ACCs for these consultations. Expenses for the ACC consultations were covered under their existing operational funding.