

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 18-19 OCTOBER 2010

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL AUSTRALIA, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Outstanding QoNs	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—No. I am asking you how many of those questions taken on notice by the department for which you do have responsibility now were submitted by the department to the minister prior to 21 July, as directed by the resolution of the Senate?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—I would have to take that on notice because I am not sure how many were submitted to the minister. From my understanding in terms of what I have observed, none of the answers were actually provided to a minister's office.</p>	p.25 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
2 ¹	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That will do. Thank you very much. Several of the acting secretaries are straight out of PM&C. This is perhaps a question to the minister. I do not want to offend Ms Beauchamp, but I assume the acting appointments out of PM&C are temporary fill-ins until a permanent secretary is sought and engaged. Is that it?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I do not know. That is the frank and honest answer. Ms Beauchamp may have some further information to add about the parameters concerning her acting appointment—likely length et cetera and what the process is. But I do not know, Senator Macdonald. I would have to take it on notice.</p>	p.26 19/10/2010		
3a)	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Outstanding QoNs	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So you are going to get me on notice how many of the questions from the department dealing with regional development, local government and whatever this area had before for which you are responsible. How many of those questions were submitted by your department to the minister prior to 21 July, as directed by an order of the Senate?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—Yes. Can I make a clarification? The department did not exist at the time you are speaking of, so I will be seeking advice from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—But the regional development elements of that department are now in your department?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—Indeed.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—And the officers, by and large, are the same?</p>	pp.26-27 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

¹ Answered in Hansard transcript 19/10/2010, p.26

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				<p>Ms Beauchamp—Yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—And you will able to find out from them how many of them provide—</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—Were submitted to the previous minister, yes.</p>			
3b)	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Reasons behind delay of QoNs	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Minister, do you have any idea why they would not have been dealt with prior to 21 July, well before the election?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I think Ms Beauchamp has indicated there were issues surrounding the transition.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—This is before the election.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I accept that. I am going to get to that. There have been issues around the transition and the status of the committee et cetera. She has put that on the public record. I would have to take that on notice as well, Senator Macdonald. This is a first for me. I have not represented this department at estimates before so I have not been at previous estimates for the issues that you are raising and where the questions on notice were taken. Otherwise I might have a greater personal knowledge, but I do not, unfortunately. But I will take it on notice, as Ms Beauchamp has. I will attempt to ascertain from the ministerial officers why there has been a delay. I do not believe it is satisfactory that there has been a delay, because I have sat where you sit. I do not accept your critique that you made earlier that this government has the worst record. I think if we were to look at the various records, responses to questions on notice and time frames of each committee over this government and previous governments, I would not accept that we had been worse than the previous government. But I will take it on notice, Senator Macdonald, and I will endeavour to find out, as also Ms Beauchamp has indicated, some specific time frames and reasons for those questions not having been provided. I do not believe it is satisfactory that the questions have not been provided, but I do not believe it is reasonable that Ms Beauchamp, given she is a new appointment—</p>	p.27 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
4	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you, Minister. It just means that we will have to now go back through a lot of the questions we did ask five months ago and about which we have anxiously been awaiting answers. I am told that the answers are at hand. So unless they can be delivered to us in the next hour, we can ask them now in the confident knowledge that we will get answers today because the answers are at hand. So we will come back to those later. First of all, I am just curious as to why the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government has been moved to Prime Minister and Cabinet. As an outsider, it suggests that the Prime Minister has no confidence in those she has appointed to deal with this area. But perhaps there is another explanation.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Well, that is a decision for the government of the day. The</p>	p.28 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

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				government of the day makes that decision, not the department itself. ... Senator Sherry —Thank you, Chair, again. As I say, it was a decision of the Prime Minister. I do not agree with the assertion in your question, which you have claimed would indicate a lack of confidence in my colleague Mr Crean. What I would argue is that, to the contrary, it shows a renewed and added focus by this government on the issues of regional Australia. Beyond that, I am happy to take your question on notice and see if Minister Crean can add anything further.			
5	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	PMs role in new Department	Senator IAN MACDONALD —So what part will the Prime Minister play in the oversight of this department, as you have just mentioned? Senator Sherry —Well, the officers may be able to explain or may want to go to any administrative arrangements that to date have been entered into between the minister—in this case, Mr Crean—and the Prime Minister’s office. Beyond that, I will take on notice your question to the minister, Mr Crean. But the officers may have something to add on the arrangements between the department and PM&C.	pp.28-29 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
6	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		Senator IAN MACDONALD —Why was there no parliamentary secretary appointed to this department as there was previously? Senator Sherry —Firstly, it is a matter for the Prime Minister. Secondly, if it is a matter for the Prime Minister, as much as I can take that on notice and Minister Crean can provide a response, I will, but it would be a matter for the PM&C estimates, not for Minister Crean’s estimates. But I will take it on notice and see if he can add anything.	p.31 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
7 ²	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	The regional Australia and regional development subcommittee of cabinet.	Senator IAN MACDONALD —So we have a group of cabinet ministers, including the Prime Minister, who are associating with what we would call regional Australia? Senator Sherry —That is a cabinet subcommittee. Senator IAN MACDONALD —And there is a group of other ministers and parliamentary secretaries who are also involved? Ms Beauchamp —Who are supporting Minister Crean. Senator IAN MACDONALD —Let me chance my hand at this. Is a group of backbenchers also going to be reporting? Senator ADAMS —And independents? Senator IAN MACDONALD —Very good. As my colleague Senator Adams quite rightly says, perhaps a group of independents as well. Is there some formality about that? Ms Beauchamp —I am not aware of the formalities in terms of what happens at the	p.32 19/10/2010		

² Answered in Hansard transcript 19/10/2010, p.32

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				<p>political end around backbenchers.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We have a caucus committee that has responsibility and oversight of the regional issues amongst its remit. But I would have to take that on notice and provide you with a response as to the details. That would meet regularly with ministers, including Minister Crean, in respect of his responsibilities for regional Australia. Obviously Ms Beauchamp would not be aware of those, but I am happy to take it on notice and ask Minister Crean to provide a response on those relationships. I can tell you Minister Gray from WA, Parliamentary Secretary Farrell of South Australia, King in Victoria, my colleague Julie Collins from Tasmania, Elliott in New South Wales, Snowdon in the Northern Territory, McLucas in Queensland and Lundy in the ACT. They are the nominated parliamentary secretaries and/or ministers. My advice is that there are regular meetings every sitting week of those individuals with the minister</p>			
8	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I might just mention in passing that I think that is a far more sensible place for it to be than in Attorney-General's, but that is an opinion in passing. Have you provided—if not, can you provide—the staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers in the new department?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—We are a very lean department at the moment in terms of SES officers. We have transferred about 250 departmental officers from the giving departments. We have 120 non-APS employees. In terms of the break-up of senior executive service officers and other officers, I will take that on notice rather than read through exactly what SES complement we have on board. At the moment, I am seconding people from other agencies to assist in establishing the department and building our capacity. Some secretaries have been very generous in providing SES and other officers on loan in some instances and, in others, on secondment.</p>	p.34 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
9	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—What budget have you been allocated for the balance of the financial year as an overall department?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—I am sorry, Senator, I will have to take the detail of that on notice and provide further detail, as we are still going through the transfer of those departmental resources. At the moment there has been an initial transfer of around \$25 million so we can operate as a department, so we can enter into contracts and so we can take people on and do the things that you can do legally. But I will be in negotiations with the secretary of Attorney-General's, and Infrastructure and Transport to finalise those resources coming across.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So you do not have an overall budget for the next nine months at this stage?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—I have a pretty good indication of what the annual budget is.</p>	p.34 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

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				<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—What is that?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—Around \$25 million. What I need to find out is how much of that has been expended before I appoint any other—</p>			
10	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am diverting, because we clearly have no questions for the territories section of your department. I am diverting to that. How are the arrangements going with Western Australia to take over the services of the Indian Ocean territories? I know they supply most of the teachers and doctors, but, as I understand it, there was some move to more formally move the territories services to Western Australia. Is that progressing at all?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—I will have to ask one of the other officers here responsible for that division to provide an answer.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Yates—Certainly, Senator. I am the first assistant secretary of the territories division. I came into that specific role in March this year whilst I was in the Attorney-General's Department. Prior to that, I was the assistant secretary of territories west, which includes the Christmas and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. So in terms of your question about Western Australia, the arrangements that have been in place for a considerable period of time are that we purchase a wide range of services off the Western Australian government through 40 service delivery arrangements, where they deliver service essentially to the same standard as what is done in remote Western Australia. At this stage, from the Commonwealth's perspective, there are no discussions regarding the Indian Ocean territories going into Western Australia. On that point, I note there are some constitutional steps that would have to be taken before any adjustment of state boundaries. We have had no formal communication from Western Australia regarding any change. All the discussions that we have had with them indicate a high level of satisfaction with the current arrangements.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I suppose it is a bit early to ask you whether that is a goal of the minister to more formally transfer—</p> <p>Mr Yates—That would be a matter for the government.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—And we will take that on notice for the minister.</p>	p.35 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
11 a) ³	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I shall come back to that. I diverted myself a bit when we were talking about all these committees helping Mr Crean. Perhaps I should ask you this, Minister. What is the arrangement with the two rural Independents who have</p>	p.37 19/10/2010		

³ Answered in Hansard transcript 19/10/2010, p.37

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				<p>guaranteed the government its life? Is there some formal process for them to meet regularly or irregularly?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—It is the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So the Prime Minister but not the minister, Minister Crean?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take it on notice the extent to which the minister will be meeting with the Independents. I am sure it will be regular. But I do not have a brief about how regular. As for the agreement with the Independents, it is for regular meetings with the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—With the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—That is what the document goes to.</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—If I can just confirm that. It has been formalised in the agreement that certainly Minister Crean would meet with the Independents on a regular basis.</p>			
11 b)	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—And does that include Mr Katter as well as the other two?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—I am not aware that Mr Katter has a process of formal meetings with the government.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—He was not party to that document. But I will take it on notice whether Minister Crean has any process with Mr Katter. But I have no indication and no briefing on that.</p>	p.37 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
12	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—With the two New South Wales Independents—and I have glanced at the agreement—is there a schedule of spending for the electorates of those two, the member for New England and the member for Lyne? Do you have anywhere within the department's files a schedule of what money is going to be spent in their individual electorates over the period of the government or any other period?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—I am not aware of that work having been undertaken, no. I would have to take that on notice to see what commitments—you have asked beyond commitments—or expenditure is likely to occur within those electorates.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Minister, you might take on notice, if you would, the justification for certain allocations for two electorates. I assume, but correct me if I am wrong, there is a lack of commitment necessarily to other electorates in rural and regional Australia.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I just want to clarify your question. Effectively, you are obviously wanting an electorate breakdown for the two electorates just as they relate to this department?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes. Well, I really cannot ask for other departments.</p>	p.37 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

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				<p>Senator Sherry—Yes. That is right.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—But in this department, yes.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—But by dealing with the second part of your question vis-a-vis other electorates, there would have to be an examination of other regional electorates to give the comparison, presumably.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Well, my question really relates to how a government can make commitments to two particular electorates and not to other electorates. What is the policy rationale for that apart from power?</p>			
13	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I have a series of questions about the priority regional infrastructure program, but I take it from your last answer you cannot give me any detail about that. For example, have any projects been allocated funding over that to-be-structured priority regional infrastructure program?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—Sorry, Senator, I did mention previously that we do need to go through a formal budget process, and we are currently doing that inside government.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes, but if you can answer my questions, there is no point in me asking you detailed questions about projects that have received funding because nothing has received funding because you have not set it up yet?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—The government has made a commitment for that fund to start some time in the future, and that will be subject to a budget process.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Has the government made any commitments for expenditure from that fund, even though it is not set up?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—I am not aware of any.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Not for the electorates of Lyne and New England?</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—Out of that particular fund?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes.</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—I will have to take that on notice, Senator.</p>	p.38 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
14	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That does not help me today, I am sorry. It is not being funded through your department. Can you tell me what the Charter of Budget Honesty says about it? Perhaps we might take something on notice.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—You want to know whether this department is funding any of those election commitments.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—And, if so, which programs.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Exactly. Thank you, Minister. But it is tied into Ms Foster's response.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Yes. I understand.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Indicating that it is part of the overall funding, and I</p>	p.43 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

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				<p>can only question you about the funding that comes through this department. But, perhaps on notice, if you could take what the minister says but add to that. If you could let me have a simplified chart of what funding you will have for regional projects—regional infrastructure-type projects—the sort of things that have either been promised in election campaigns or that were previously part of the RLCIP program, or any other of those programs. Could you just give me a simplified chart of how much is proposed to be spent in the current financial year and the out years and where it is coming from. Of course, I emphasise you can only do that in relation to your own department unless one of these other three or four coordinating groups perhaps have some relevance to those things as well.</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—Can I just put a caveat on that, in terms of funding for projects committed to through the election. We need to go through a budget process, particularly for the phasing and prioritisation of a number of commitments, and we may not be able to provide a complete list until we have finalised that process or until the government has finalised that prioritisation across the forward estimates.</p>			
15	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Regional Infrastructure Fund	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. But just let me make this clear, the bulk of the Regional Infrastructure Fund is not of this department but of the infrastructure department.</p> <p>Ms Foster—In broad terms, \$573 million comes to this department and the remainder is allocated to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes. So it could go. It could go. Thank you. This is being funded by the mining tax, is it, Minister, or can your officials assist you on that?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Is it part of the tax reform package?</p> <p>Ms Foster—It is.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is. And what happens if the mining tax does not go through? Perhaps I should ask that to the minister. Perhaps, Minister, you would say it is hypothetical.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Actually I would not say that. I would have to clarify the status of this program that we are discussing in terms of the future of the mining tax, but certainly the Treasurer has made it very clear in respect of some other programs of which I have knowledge—for example, standard deductions and the instant write-off of small business. Those sorts of programs are funded from the mining tax and are contingent on the mining tax as part of the package. But with this program, I do not know if any of the officers do know whether it is contingent on the mining tax or not. If they do not, we will take it on notice and find out for you</p>	pp.43-44 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
16	Dept of	Macdonald	Regional Local	Senator IAN MACDONALD —Going back to the Regional Local Community	p.46	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	Regional Australia		Community Infrastructure Program	Infrastructure Program, are there still projects that have been approved that remain to be funded? Ms Beauchamp —Yes. Senator IAN MACDONALD —Could you, perhaps, on notice, list those for me and advise me whether they are on schedule, are there any major delays to projects that you are aware of? Is that possible? Ms Beauchamp —Yes.	19/10/2010		
17	Dept of Regional Australia	Adams		Senator ADAMS —I would just like to ask some questions about the RDAs. I think I did hear you say there are 55 in existence now. Ms Beauchamp —That is correct. ... 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.	p.47 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
18	Dept of Regional Australia	McGauran	Tree of Barcaldine	Senator McGAURAN —Funding was given to this stump of knowledge. They had the audacity to call it a tree of knowledge. It is a stump of knowledge. Federal funding was directed towards the Barcaldine box. In the final wash-up, how much federal funding was contributed to the shrine? Now, the whole— ... Mr Wood —The project was funded under the Better Regions Program and received \$2.6 million towards an overall project cost of \$6.8 million. Senator McGAURAN —How much was given? Mr Wood —The government provided \$2.6 million through the Better Regions Program.	pp.49-52 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

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				<p>Senator McGAURAN—\$2.6 million.</p> <p>Mr Wood—The project as a whole was \$6.8 million.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Could you supply me the basis on which the \$2.6 million was given in the first place?</p> <p>Mr Carmichael—It was an election commitment, Senator. First government policy.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—But beyond the commitment there was a reason why it was.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take it on notice for the minister.</p>			
19	Dept of Regional Australia	Moore		<p>Senator MOORE—I encourage Senator McGauran to make a pilgrimage to Barcaldine, seeing as how he has not even been there to see this view. I am just interested to hear from one of the officers who could answer a question in terms of the negotiation on this project, who will receive the actual funding? In the exchange between the Commonwealth who was actually receiving the money on the other end?</p> <p>Mr Wood—It was the Barcaldine Regional Council.</p> <p>Senator MOORE—The council itself, which is the regional council around the area.</p> <p>Mr Wood—That is right.</p> <p>Senator MOORE—I was fascinated by your answers about the role of the Commonwealth after the project has been concluded. I can put this on notice, Mr Wood: what involvement does the government have with any of the projects? We will move away from focusing on one of my favourite places which happens to be Barcaldine. For any project that received funding under this round, what is the interaction that the department has with those projects once the final funding is made? If I could get something in writing about that on notice that would be really useful. And is there any difference with this project to any others that were funded in the general stream of funding?</p> <p>Mr Carmichael—The quick answer to that, Senator, is that it is now known that there is an expectation that we will monitor these projects for five years. There is not an intensive monitoring of all of them because there are 5,000 projects, but there is some level of scrutiny of projects over the next five years just to ensure the continuity. Part of the condition of funding is the long-term viability, which is deemed to be at least five years, so we do some monitoring of all our projects into the future up to that five-year mark.</p> <p>Senator MOORE—Can I get some information on notice about what that means when you say ‘monitoring’, because it has such a wide definition. I am very keen to see whether this particular project is different as opposed to the other 5,000, as well as what kind of form of monitoring takes place, and what you mean by viability? I know Senator McGauran and I will be able to read these papers together and see how it works but it</p>	pp.52-53 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

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				would be useful to see what defines viability, and in these projects—there was such a wide range of them—how you determine viability in that aspect. Thank you.			
20 a)	Dept of Regional Australia	Bernardi	Nation Building Program	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Whether that fits my needs or not I will have to establish and I can always get back to you in a couple of months time if that is the case. Can you advise me what percentage of local government infrastructure projects under the Nation Building Program have been completed?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Foster—All of those have been completed and we are just wrapping up the final acquittals, but it is literally just a matter of finalising a bit of paperwork.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—That is the fine print, is it?</p> <p>Ms Foster—Then the second component of that first round of funding was the \$550 million competitive program.</p> <p>Mr Carmichael—Yes, 15 of those have now completed.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Foster—So 134 have commenced and 15 have completed.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Fifteen. Out of how many total projects?</p> <p>Ms Foster—That was 137 in that round.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—So 134 have commenced, so there are three that have not started. Is that right?</p> <p>Ms Foster—That is correct, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—What projects are they?</p> <p>Ms Foster—Senator, I have not got that readily to hand. Can I get back to you?</p>	pp.53-54 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
20 b)	Dept of Regional Australia	Bernardi	Nation Building Program	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Okay, you can get back to me. Fifteen have been completed. I would be interested to know what those 15 are as well if you want to get back to me on that as well, please. In your analysis—or just wrapping up the paperwork, as you put it the other day—of the completed projects or even those that are partially completed, is the department aware of any slippages or cost overruns or project delivery issues in regard to these local government infrastructure projects funded by government?</p> <p>Ms Foster—Senator, there are a range of issues which the local governments come up against as they deliver the projects. In some cases projects are delayed due to weather. We have had a fire in council offices that destroyed all the approvals and so there are a range of issues which delay projects. We manage those in conjunction with the councils where there is a requirement for some kind of renegotiation, for example, so that the completion date can be accommodated some months later. Then we will renegotiate that with the council.</p>	p.54 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
20 c)	Dept of	Bernardi	Nation Building	Senator BERNARDI —Could you indicate to me how many have been subject to such	p.54	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	Regional Australia		Program	renegotiation? Ms Foster —We do not have those sort of figures to hand with us, Senator, sorry. Senator BERNARDI —You do have them available but just not to hand now. Ms Foster —Yes. As I think one of the other officers said, in this series of programs there are 5,000 projects. Senator BERNARDI —Yes. But are there hundreds of them that have been renegotiated? Ms Foster —Senator, I would have to take that on notice.	19/10/2010		
21	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		Senator IAN MACDONALD —Could I, on notice, get the 2010-11 grants for local governing bodies under the FAGs please? Or perhaps you could just direct us to where they are available. There is a list somewhere, is there? Ms Foster —You are looking for the actual allocations to— Senator IAN MACDONALD —To each council. Ms Foster —each council. Senator IAN MACDONALD —What is there now? There used to be 733. Ms Foster —There are 565 plus the ACT. Senator IAN MACDONALD —Yes. Is that available somewhere? Is there a website or something? Ms Foster —Senator, certainly we will either get you a website or we will tell you where it is available.	p.55 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
22	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Australian Council of Local Government	Senator IAN MACDONALD —Okay. Minister, is it the government's intention to continue to convene the Australian Council of Local Government annually? Ms Foster —I have just said we do not have an indication yet, Senator. Senator Sherry —Yes. We are going to have to take that on notice for the minister to—	p.56 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
23	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		Senator IAN MACDONALD —What part does the department of local government play in the proposal for constitutional recognition? Mr Carmichael —We have provided some funding to the Australian Local Government Association, an amount of about \$250,000 to support the Australian Local Government Association prosecuting and consulting with their communities about constitutional recognition. Senator IAN MACDONALD —Excuse me for just a moment. Sorry, could you just say that again. I am sorry. Mr Carmichael —The department provided \$250,000 to the Australian Local Government Association for consultation in the lead-up to support their aspirations for constitutional recognition of local government. Senator IAN MACDONALD —And that is your only role? Ms Beauchamp —Senator, we will also be working with the Department of the Prime	p.57 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Minister and Cabinet, Attorney-General's Department and FaHCSIA around these constitutional and referenda issues.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You cannot tell me anything about it, though. I would have to refer it to AG's— or perhaps the coordinating unit at your coordinating department can tell me.</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—We are jointly coming up with a process to address this and provide advice to government.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. Perhaps if I put that on notice you can tell me at your leisure what is proposed. I am just reminded that we are running out of time and I did want to move to the Northern Australian office.</p>			
24	Dept of Regional Australia	Siewert	Christmas Island – Mine closure planning and the rehabilitation planning.	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Okay. Thank you. In terms of the rehabilitation, I asked in Environment estimates yesterday about how the process was going and what was happening with the areas that were the subject of the application previously. Is there any further work that needs to be done on those sites in terms of rehabilitation?</p> <p>Mr Yates—I just need to clarify: when you say the sites previously, are they the sites that the park has been previously working on or are they mine sites that the mine is working on?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I mean mine sites that the mine was working on that were subject to the applications for expanding mining. Some of those already had regrowth on them, as I recall, and I am wondering if there are any other of those areas that need further rehabilitation work.</p> <p>Mr Yates—I think the best way I can answer that at this point, Senator, is that there are a series of high priority sites that have been identified and that Parks Australia or Environment is best placed to answer that, as they actually run the rehabilitation program.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I might put some questions on notice, because they told me to come and ask you.</p> <p>Mr Yates—We certainly provide funding but they work through the program. We can certainly take it on notice and develop that answer with them, yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—If you could, about what areas and are there any other areas within that that are the high-priority sites? Without trying to be judgmental, we also talked about the relatively slow pace of the rehabilitation process in terms of funding. As I understand from what they said last night, and I hope I am not misinterpreting their words, they are working to the pace for which the funding is available. I am aware, having talked to them in the past, it is fairly slow.</p> <p>Ms Beauchamp—We will see if we get some more information.</p>	p.58 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
25	Dept of	Siewert		Senator SIEWERT —That would be appreciated, thank you. I have another set of	p.59	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	Regional Australia			<p>questions and, again, I am not sure if I am asking in the right area. With the process of development in the Kimberley, I am aware that there has been a social impact study done by the Kimberley Land Council that has been provided to the state government and I am wondering (a) if you are aware of that study and (b) whether you have been given a copy of that study.</p> <p>Ms Fleming—I think we would have to take that on notice because the Kimberley Land Council has been concerned about a number of issues in the Kimberley, so it depends whether you are talking about James Price Point or you are talking about some other elements of the Kimberley development.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Fleming—It is my understanding that the two issues are quite separate, but we would need to take that on notice because James Price Point is an issue for the WA state government at this stage.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—What I was referring to is I was not sure if the social impact study just considers James Price Point, or some of the other development proposals in West Kimberley.</p> <p>Ms Fleming—The West Kimberley package that was announced, I think, in the media a week or so ago, about potential future agriculture: we are still seeking information around the WA government's perspective on that, so we would need to take questions on that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Okay, so could you take on notice whether you have seen the social impact statement—well, it is not just the statement, sorry; it is a pretty thorough study, as I understand it.</p> <p>Ms Fleming—Yes, happy to take that on notice.</p>	19/10/2010		
26	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Office of Northern Australia	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—These were questions taken on notice, but no doubt, as you have done the work, you would be able to tell me off the top of your head now. Can you tell me the position regarding the staffing of the Office of Northern Australia?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—In that case—on notice today but complementing the question on notice from last time, which we have not yet got the answers to—could you give me the staffing levels across the last three years in the office and in each part of the office, please.</p>	pp.60-61 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
27 a)	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Would either the office or your minister, who is now Melbourne-based Mr Crean, have a role in the allocation of fundings from various government programs to recipients in Northern Australia?</p> <p>...</p>	pp.61-62 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I wonder what Mr Gray would have said, had he still had a role in the north, to the revelations about the first Gillard government allocation of funds, which was snuck out yesterday for the Caring for our Country program, to those groups and programs that cover more than half of the continent of Australia—remembering that this is a program that deals with country, not with people. The Northern Australian groups and projects got a total of 12 per cent of the total funding, and even if you add in Reef Rescue it is 22 per cent for half of Australia. I wonder if the office or Mr Gray's replacement, who you tell me is Mr Crean, would be concerned that Northern Australia appears to have been victimised for the fabulous result it had at the election for coalition parties.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—That is not a matter for the officers. I will take it on notice, and I do not accept the polemic and accusation of victimisation. I just do not accept it, but I will take it on notice for the minister.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can I leave out the polemic at the end and say: is it something that would concern the office or the minister taking on Mr Gray's role of advocacy for Northern Australia to find that a mere 12 per cent of the total funds for Caring for our Country has gone to Northern Australia, which constitutes half of the continent, and the balance has gone to the southern part of Australia?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—You are asking the officers for a policy political observation in view of the allocation of funds based on a minister's decision. I will take it on notice for the minister.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. Is it legitimate to ask the office if it has some concerns with that sort of approach?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I take it on notice.</p>			
27 b)	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Minister, you might also ask Mr Crean what intervention he made with the agriculture and environment ministers—whatever their long titles are nowadays—who made the decisions on Caring for our Country, to argue the case for Northern Australia, which constitutes, as I say, half the landmass of this continent. Would you take that on notice too?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take it on notice, but as you know cabinet discussions and discussions with ministers et cetera are confidential. But I will take it on notice and see what I can provide you.</p>	p.62 19/10/2010	03/12/10	
27 c)	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is the office aware that it appears from material given to us in the Caring for our Country program—and I am taking your coordinating role across the regional subcommittee of cabinet and the other units that we were talking about before—that the Caring for our Country grants released yesterday do not appear to</p>	p.62 19/10/2010	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				contain any funding at all for that part of Western Australia north of the Tropic of Capricorn? Is that something that the office is aware of and, if so, could they explain why that might be? Perhaps it was a mistake. Ms Beauchamp —We will take that on notice.			
28	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Regional / Community Infrastructure Funding	Could the Minister provide details of the commitments made prior to the 2010 Election in relation to the following project: Cairns Cultural Centre Stating: a) the total cost of the project; b) the government's commitment in dollar terms; c) where the funding will be sourced; d) when construction will commence; e) how long will construction take; and f) what detail the Department has been provided with regarding the promise.	Written	03/12/10	
29	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Regional / Community Infrastructure Funding	Could the Minister provide details of the commitments made prior to the 2010 Election in relation to the following project: Local AFL, upgrade to Cazaly's stadium and indigenous AFL academy Stating: a) the total cost of the project; b) the government's commitment in dollar terms; c) where the funding will be sourced; d) when construction will commence; e) how long will construction take; and f) what detail the Department has been provided with regarding the promise.	Written	03/12/10	
30	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Regional / Community Infrastructure Funding	Could the Minister provide details of the commitments made prior to the 2010 Election in relation to the following project: Airlie Beach Village Main Street Revitalisation Stating: a) the total cost of the project; b) the government's commitment in dollar terms; c) where the funding will be sourced; d) when construction will commence; e) how long will construction take; and f) what detail the Department has been provided with regarding the promise.	Written	03/12/10	
31	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Regional / Community Infrastructure Funding	Could the Minister provide details of the commitments made prior to the 2010 Election in relation to the following project: Bowen Water Park Stating: a) the total cost of the project; b) the government's commitment in dollar terms;	Written	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				c) where the funding will be sourced; d) when construction will commence; e) how long will construction take; and f) what detail the Department has been provided with regarding the promise.			
32	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Regional / Community Infrastructure Funding	Could the Minister provide details of the commitments made prior to the 2010 Election in relation to the following project: Mackay Basketball Stadium Stating: a) the total cost of the project; b) the government's commitment in dollar terms; c) where the funding will be sourced; d) when construction will commence; e) how long will construction take; and f) what detail the Department has been provided with regarding the promise.	Written	03/12/10	
33	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Regional / Community Infrastructure Funding	Could the Minister provide details of the commitments made prior to the 2010 Election in relation to the following project: Gary Larson Oval, Miriam Vale Stating: a) the total cost of the project; b) the government's commitment in dollar terms; c) where the funding will be sourced; d) when construction will commence; e) how long will construction take; and f) what detail the Department has been provided with regarding the promise.	Written	03/12/10	
34	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Regional / Community Infrastructure Funding	Could the Minister provide details of the commitments made prior to the 2010 Election in relation to the following project: BMX track in Darwin Stating: a) the total cost of the project; b) the government's commitment in dollar terms; c) where the funding will be sourced; d) when construction will commence; e) how long will construction take; and f) what detail the Department has been provided with regarding the promise.	Written	03/12/10	
35	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald		Have any savings of existing resources within either the Department or PM & C been made to offset the cost of the change?	Written	03/12/10	
36	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Auditor-General report on the Regional and	a) Why did the Department fail to provide advice to the Minister on each grant application? b) Why did the Department make arrangements to increase program spending by	Written	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			Local Community Infrastructure Program	making further payments before 30 June 2010 "irrespective of whether councils had yet spent or committed the funds already advanced to them"? Was the Department aware that these payments were being made ahead of councils' requirements for the funds? c) The Department accepts the five recommendations of this report. What is the Department doing to implement these recommendations?			
37	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Spatial accounting model - DORA's involvement in/with DoFD	a) Does the Department already collect information on funding on a regional basis? If so, how is this funding classified? Is funding identified as "inner regional", "outer regional", etc? b) Could the Department provide the Committee with any information it has on where (on a geographical classification basis), the following programs have allocated funds? Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program Better Regions Jobs Fund – bike paths Jobs Fund – Infrastructure Employment Projects	Written	03/12/10	
38	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	The work of the Centre of Excellence for Local Government	Mr Anthony Albanese MP stated on Wednesday 24th June 2009 in relation to the creation the Centre of Excellence for Local Government, "It will be about making sure that we learn from best practice and that we spread best practice in order to make sure that at the end of the day ratepayers receive best value for their contributions to local government". Please provide an update on the work of the Centre of Excellence for Local Government since its establishment on 14 December 2009?	Written	03/12/10	
39	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald	Intergovernmental agreement on cost shifting	a) The Intergovernmental Agreement on Cost Shifting is due for review before 12th April 2011. What arrangements have been put in place for the review process to take place? b) Are there any plans for internal or public inquiry into the renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Cost Shifting?	Written	03/12/10	
40 ⁴		Macdonald	National Cycling strategy for 2011	Minister Anthony Albanese recently released a National Cycling Strategy for 2011 to 2016 at the Australian Transport Council meeting of 24 September 2010. The short term goal is to double the number of people cycling over the next five years. No dollars were mentioned. Will the Federal Government be diverting funds towards this strategy and how much?	Written		

⁴ Transferred to the Department of Infrastructure

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
41 ⁵		Macdonald		Will the Federal Government be committing the second stage of funding for the Healthy Places and Spaces initiative between the National Heart Foundation of Australia, the Planning Institute of Australia and the Australian Local Government Association?	Written		
42	All Departments and Agencies	Bernardi		Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to exceed their current budget? If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).	Written	03/12/10	
43	All Departments and Agencies	Bernardi		Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to under spend their current budget? If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).	Written	03/12/10	
44	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Outstanding QoNs	If there are any outstanding questions on notice from Budget Estimates 2010: Please explain why there are still some outstanding questions on notice from Budget Estimates 2010.	Written	03/12/10	
45	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Media Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office in the 2009/10 financial year? Which agency or agencies provided these services? b) What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department and its agencies in the 2009/10 financial year? Which agency or agencies provided these services? 	Written	03/12/10	
46	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Has the department instituted any policies or protocols that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs? If yes, please explain what restrictions has been put in place. Why were these restrictions put in place? b) IF NO: Why not? (for example there may be legitimate reasons for some staff to access these sites for legitimate purposes). c) Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time are these sites most accessed (i.e. lunch time?). d) Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites? 	Written	03/12/10	
47	All Departments	Abetz	Ministerial Submissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Did the Government, Minister or his office return any documents to the Department once the caretaker conventions began? 	Written	03/12/10	

⁵ Transferred to the Department of Health and Ageing

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	ts and Agencies			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Did these documents include Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes? c) How many unread, unsigned or undealt with Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes were sent back? d) What was the date of the earliest such document that was sent back from the Minister's office and the date of the last? e) Did the Minister or his office request prior to the calling of the election that no more submissions, briefs or notes be sent? 			
48	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Election Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Were any of the government's election promises in your portfolio costed before the election was called by the department or Treasury or Finance? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done. b) Had your department or any agency in your portfolio provided information on any of the government's election promises in your portfolio to the Government before the election was called? Was any work done on formulating any of the Government's election commitments? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done. 	Written	03/12/10	
49	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Election commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is the status of each election commitment from the 2007 election within the portfolio? b) Which 2007 election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage? c) Are there any 2007 election commitments that will not be implemented? If yes, please provide details. Were departmental resources provided to implement these commitments? How much? What will happen to the funding now? 	Written	03/12/10	
50	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Election commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is the status of each election commitment from the 2010 election within the portfolio? Please provide a list. b) Has implementation of the 2010 election commitments within the portfolio commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not? 	Written	03/12/10	
51	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Election commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will additional departmental resources be required to implement 2010 election commitments within your portfolio? If yes, provide details. If no, why not? If unable to provide an answer please explain why. b) How will the election commitments in your portfolio be offset? Will your portfolio be required to offset the new spending in your portfolio? 	Written	03/12/10	
52	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	2010 Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What type of work did your portfolio engage in during the campaign? b) Did you receive any requests for information from the Government, your portfolio Ministers or any other Ministers? 	Written	03/12/10	
53	All	Abetz	2010 Election	Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes,	Written	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	Departments and Agencies			when and why? If no, why not?			
54	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	2010 Election	Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?	Written	03/12/10	
55	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Efficiency Dividend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Has your portfolio started implementing the Government's savings election commitment of maintaining the annual efficiency dividend on departmental expenses at 1.25 per cent? If not, why not? If yes, give details. b) Will any agencies in your portfolio be seeking an exemption to implementing the efficiency dividend? c) How do you think you will implement it? Give examples of the types of cuts you will make (i.e. no more pot plants in departmental buildings). d) Will there be cuts to staff? If yes, give details. 	Written	03/12/10	
56	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Staffing Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is the total expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies? What is the SES and non-SES breakdown? b) What are the current staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers? 	Written	03/12/10	
57	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Staffing Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How many SES were employed in your Department and portfolio agencies on 10 May 2010? b) How many SES were employed in your Department and portfolio agencies as of today? 	Written	03/12/10	
58	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Staffing Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is the breakdown by each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)? b) What is the gender breakdown by each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)? c) What is the breakdown by location for each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)? d) What is the breakdown by each level of ongoing staff and non ongoing staff (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)? 	Written	03/12/10	
59	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Staffing Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What has been the general staffing trend in your department and portfolio agencies since the 2007 election (for example SES numbers and recruitment has increased by X per cent because of Y). b) What have been the changes in staffing levels since Budget Estimates 2010? Why have these changes occurred? What have been the Budgetary implications? In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these 	Written	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				reductions been absorbed by the Department? What functions these staff performed have been sacrificed and why?			
60	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Staffing Levels	<p>a) Are there expected changes to current staffing levels over the next 12 months? If yes, provide details including a breakdown of each level staff (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band) detailing the changes. Will this be different to what was reported in the 2010-11 Budget?</p> <p>b) Has there been a target for staff reductions to achieve savings? What is that target and what strategy is being implemented to achieve this? Will staff reductions be used to achieve the Government's election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend?</p> <p>c) Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff? If so, how have staff been identified for such offers? Are there such plans for the future?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
61	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Staffing Levels	<p>a) How many permanent staff recruited since Budget Estimates 2010? What level are these staff? Where is their location?</p> <p>b) Since Budget Estimates 2010, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</p> <p>c) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the current efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts since Budget Estimates 2010? If so, where and at what level?</p> <p>d) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.</p> <p>e) If your Department/agency has been identified in the 2010 election as delivering efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, savings commitments included reducing program funding, rationalising grants etc how will these impact the department and staffing) .</p>	Written	03/12/10	
62	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Staffing Levels	What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc	Written	03/12/10	
63	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Electoral Reports	<p>a) Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website? If not, why not? If so, when? What data will be included?</p> <p>b) Did the Department prepare electorate level reports for the Government Ministers for the 2010 election? What data is included in these reports? How often is this updated? Why is this material not publicly available? Please provide copy of latest reports.</p> <p>c) Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants</p>	Written	03/12/10	

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				scheme since November 2007?			
64	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Consultancies	<p>a) How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).</p> <p>b) How can the department justify this expenditure?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
65	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Consultancies	How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since Budget Estimates 2010 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.	Written	03/12/10	
66	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Consultancies	<p>a) Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contacts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?</p> <p>b) Has there been any changes in the consultancies that are planned for this calendar year since Budget Estimates 2010? If yes, have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.</p> <p>c) Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.</p>	Written	03/12/10	
67	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Contractors	<p>a) Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>b) Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>c) Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>d) Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>e) Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>f) Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any</p>	Written	03/12/10	

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				<p>capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>g) Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>h) Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.</p> <p>i) Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.</p>			
68	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Advertising and Marketing	<p>a) How much has the Department and portfolio agencies spent on advertising and marketing since Budget Estimates? Ask for justification of expenditure.</p> <p>b) Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts. Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.</p> <p>c) What communications programs has the Department and portfolio agencies undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken? For each program, what is the total spend?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
69	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Discretionary Grants	<p>a) Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.</p> <p>b) Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
70	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Commissioned Reports	<p>a) How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.</p> <p>b) How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?</p> <p>c) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
71	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Hospitality Spend	<p>a) What is the Department's hospitality spend since Budget Estimates 2010? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</p> <p>b) For each Minister/Parl Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p>	Written	03/12/10	
72	All	Abetz	Board	<p>a) What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?</p>	Written	03/12/10	

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	Departments and Agencies		Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since Budget Estimates 2010? c) Are you implementing the Government target of 40 per cent women appointed to Boards? 			
73	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	FOI requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests? b) How many FOI requests has the Department received? c) How many have been granted or denied? d) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests? e) Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and will it be released? f) Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and will it be released? 	Written	03/12/10	
74	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Community Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates 2010? b) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting? c) What was the total cost of this travel? d) What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office? 	Written	03/12/10	
75	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings? b) How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings be redrafted or relodged? Please provide example of why this would happen. (i.e. last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled). 	Written	03/12/10	
76	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since Budget Estimates 2010? b) Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since Budget Estimates 2010 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. when those reviews were provided to Government, ii. estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and iii. if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review. c) How many reviews are ongoing? d) How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates? e) What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency? f) Will any of these reviews cease due to the 2010 Election? 	Written	03/12/10	

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77	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Government Payments of Accounts	<p>a) Has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)</p> <p>b) For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?</p> <p>c) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
78	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Government stationery requirements	<p>a) What are the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. special type of paper, envelopes)?</p> <p>b) What are the cost of these items? Is the Department/portfolio agencies paying for these?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
79	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Administrative Arrangements Orders	<p>a) Can you detail what changes have occurred in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 September 2010.</p> <p>i. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage or whether refurbishment or additional space will need to be leased to accommodate new staff. Alternatively, will agencies be left with empty office space due to loss of staff). Please provide details</p> <p>ii. Were there any staff changes as a result (staff transferring to or from your agency)? If yes, please detail what the staff changes were, including a breakdown of changes to each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band.</p> <p>b) Were there any changes in your portfolio as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Orders published on 14 October 2010.</p> <p>i. Were there any costs associated with these changes (for example changes to departmental signage). Please provide details.</p> <p>ii. Were there any staff changes as a result (staff transferring to or from your agency)? If yes, please detail what the staff changes were, including a breakdown of changes to each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band.</p> <p>c) Can you describe what, if any, Administrative Arrangements Orders occurred in your portfolio between November 2007 and July 2010? Please detail the costs associated with these.</p>	Written	03/12/10	
80	All Departments	Abetz	Media Subscriptions	<p>a) Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what</p>	Written	03/12/10	

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	ts and Agencies			<p>channels.</p> <p>b) Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.</p> <p>c) Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines? If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.</p>			
81	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Travel Costs	<p>a) The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed a whole-of-government coordinated procurement arrangements for travel and related services. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies? Please explain the changes that have occurred to your department and portfolio agencies in relation to its travel and related services.</p> <p>b) Is purchasing of travel and related services less expensive under the new arrangements?</p> <p>c) Is purchasing of travel and related services more efficient under the new arrangements?</p> <p>d) Have savings been achieved in your portfolio because of the new arrangements?</p> <p>e) How much did your department and portfolio agencies spend on travel in 2008-09, 2009-10 and to date this financial year.</p> <p>f) How have staff within your department and portfolio agencies found the new arrangements? For example is it more efficient to arrange travel?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
82	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Commonwealth Property Management Framework	<p>a) The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed the establishment of Commonwealth Property Management Framework. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies?</p> <p>b) Has the implementation of this Framework lead to savings in your portfolio? Please provide details.</p>	Written	03/12/10	
83	All Departments and Agencies	Abetz	Whole-of-government departmental efficiencies	<p>a) The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies?</p> <p>b) Can you provide details of how these efficiencies will be achieved? Please provide specific examples.</p> <p>c) Will the implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend impact on your department or portfolio agencies ability to meet the efficiencies outlined in the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook?</p> <p>d) Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff to meet the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-</p>	Written	03/12/10	

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				<p>government departmental efficiencies in your portfolio? If so, please provide details? Are there such plans for the future?</p> <p>e) Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to exceed their current budget. If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).</p> <p>f) Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to under spend their current budget. If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).</p>			
84	Dept of Regional Australia	Fielding		<p>a) Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')?</p> <p>b) Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?</p> <p>c) If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?</p> <p>d) If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?</p> <p>e) Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?</p> <p>f) Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue Book')?</p> <p>g) Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?</p> <p>h) If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?</p> <p>i) If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?</p> <p>j) Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?</p>	Written	03/12/10	
85	Dept of Regional Australia	Colbeck		<p>a) During the election, the Government committed funds to the Mersey Aquatic Centre? From which program will this be funded?</p> <p>b) What 'total project figure' does the Department have recorded for the project, that is, what contributions will be made by other parties?</p> <p>c) What is the total commitment of Commonwealth funds to the project and to which financial years will this money be allocated for Budget purposes?</p> <p>d) Had any previous submission for funding for a Devonport Aquatic Centre upgrade project been rejected by any Commonwealth Department, and if so, which Departments and on what grounds was the submission rejected?</p>	Written	03/12/10	

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				<p>e) Was the funding committed for the project in July 2010 the result of any new funding application from the Devonport City Council or any other proponent?</p> <p>f) What meetings/communication has the Department had with the Devonport City Council or the Tasmanian Government about this project since the election? When? With who? Where?</p> <p>g) What timeline has been agreed to, if any, for the completion of the project?</p>			
86	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald / Heffernan		Can the department outline the status of local government projects partially or fully funded by the Commonwealth?	Written (Transferred from the Dept of Infrastructure 29/10/2010)	03/12/10	
87	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald/ Heffernan		Is the Department aware of any project slippages, cost overruns and project delivery in regard to local government projects funded by the Commonwealth?	Written (Transferred from the Dept of Infrastructure 29/10/2010)	03/12/10	
88	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald/ Heffernan	Local government infrastructure projects	How does the Department assess the merits of local government infrastructure projects? What accountability mechanisms are in place to monitor the effective utilisation of Commonwealth funds?	Written (Transferred from the Dept of Infrastructure 29/10/2010)	03/12/10	
89	Dept of Regional Australia	Macdonald/ Heffernan	Community Infrastructure Program	How has the Department assessed projects proposed under the \$120 million strategic projects boost to the community infrastructure program?	Written (Transferred from the Dept of Infrastructure 02/11/2010)	03/12/10	