

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Question: 81

Topic: Murray-Darling Basin Social and Economic Research

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

In reference to QoN88 from Budget Estimates:

- a) Can the Department provide details as to the Murray Darling Basin social and economic research undertaken by GP Consulting International?
- b) What did the research find?
- c) Can we have a copy of the findings?
- d) What are the findings being used for?

Answer:

- a) The activities undertaken by GP Consulting International included facilitating community workshops with RDA committees in the Murray Darling Basin region to ascertain the possible impact of the draft Murray Darling Basin Plan on their communities.
- b) As an outcome of the work undertaken by GP Consulting International, RDA committees provided information to the Department on possible strategies to mitigate the impact of a water constrained environment.
- c) As the above information from RDA committees, to which GP Consulting International contributed, was a synthesis of many contributors it is not possible to isolate each contribution used by the RDA committees in preparing advice to the Department.
- d) The activity assisted the RDA Committees in developing options for communities to transition to a water constrained environment.