

**Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 01**

**Division/Agency:** CSD - Corporate Services Division

**Topic:** Vacancies in the Department

**Proof Hansard Page:** 16

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

**Senator COLBECK**—Can you give me an indication of your current departmental vacancies and—

**Ms Hazell**—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have a list of current vacancies with me.

**Senator COLBECK**—If you could take that on notice and also give me an indication of any vacancies that have been open for an extended period of time. Can you do that?

**Ms Hazell**—Certainly

**Answer:**

1. Please see answer to 06 (CSD) for the Additional Estimates February 2011.
2. There are currently 10 vacancies that have been open for an extended period of 90 calendar days or more.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 02**

**Division/Agency:** CSD – Corporate Services Division

**Topic: Departmental Staffing**

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

1. Can you provide an updated breakdown of staff numbers by division/unit for February 2011 and a comparison with October 2010 and February 2010?
2. Where staff reductions have occurred can you provide details as to the reasons and the roles that have been reduced?

**Answer:**

The following table outlines the breakdown of staff numbers, expressed as actual full time equivalent (FTE) staff, by division for 28 February 2011, 20 October 2010 and 28 February 2010.

**Table 1: FTEs by Division.**

<b>Division</b>	<b>28/02/2010 FTE</b>	<b>20/10/2010 FTE</b>	<b>28/02/2011 FTE</b>
ABARES*	212.4	219.6	228
Agricultural Productivity	122.5	115.6	113.9
Biosecurity Services Group	3341.1	3361.9	3421
Climate Change	105.7	90.2	87.1
Corporate Finance	74.5	117.5	116.4
Corporate Policy	101.6	113.8	114.7
Corporate Services	224.2	205.2	219.7
Executive	7	8	10
Sustainable Resource Management	128.1	124.7	121.8
Trade & Market Access	74.2	60.2	76.6
Graduates and Trainees	5	0	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>4396.3</b>	<b>4416.7</b>	<b>4585.2</b>

\*ABARE (128.7 FTE) and BRS (83.7 FTE) have been combined for 28/2/10 to reflect the current ABARES structure.

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**Question: 02** (continued)

The department has had an increase of 188.9 FTEs over the period 28 February 2010 to 28 February 2011. There has been a total reduction by 38 FTEs in the Agricultural Productivity, Climate Change, Corporate Services and Sustainable Resource Management Divisions.

The reduction in FTEs is due to numerous factors including natural attrition and movement within the Australian Public Service. As at 28 February 2011 the department had 81 positions advertised in the Commonwealth Gazette.

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**Question: 03**

**Division/Agency:** CSD – Corporate Services Division

**Topic:** Consultancy Contracts

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

1. How much has the department spent on consultancy services since December 2007.
2. How much has the department spent on consultancy services since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in 2010? Can you provide details of the consultants and costs of these?
3. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in 2010?

**Answer:**

1. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) has spent \$36 815 047 on consultancy services since December 2007.
2. The department has spent \$2 608 265 on consultancy services since Supplementary Budget Estimates (20 October 2010 to 21 February 2011). Details of all the department's consultancy contracts, including descriptions and values, are available through AusTender, the government's electronic procurement information system at [www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au).
3. The department has entered into 34 consultancy contracts since Supplementary Budget Estimates (20 October 2010 to 21 February 2011).

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**Question: 04**

**Division/Agency:** CSD – Corporate Services Division

**Topic:** Hospitality

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

1. What is the Department's hospitality spend since Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010?
2. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events?
3. For each Minister/Parl Secretary's office, please detail total hospitality spend since Supplementary Budget Estimates?
4. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event?
5. What is the Minister's hospitality total spend since December 2007?

**Answer:**

1. For the period 21 October 2010 to 21 February 2011, the department spent \$16 207 on official hospitality.
2. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events is at **Attachment A**.
3. For the period 21 October 2010 to 21 February 2011, Minister Ludwig spent \$60 and Parliamentary Secretary Kelly spent \$154 on official hospitality.
4. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events is at **Attachment B**.
5. For the period between December 2007 and 21 February 2011 Minister Burke spent \$16 013 and Minister Ludwig spent \$60 on official hospitality. This is a total of \$16 073.

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 05**

**Division/Agency:** CSD - Corporate Services Division

**Topic:** Graduates Program

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

1. Can you provide an update on the resumption of the department's graduate program the costs of the program and the numbers of graduates and whether there are any changes from what had been advised in the May Budget Estimates?
2. Can you provide a comparison of graduate numbers and cost of the program over the previous 5 years?

**Answer:**

1. Sixty four graduates commenced with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry graduate development program on 17 January 2011. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resources Economics and Sciences' graduate program continued throughout 2010 and its graduates are included in the 76 graduates in the Hansard transcript for 21 February 2011(page 19).

On 24 May 2010, the department advised, (Hansard transcript page 11), that it would resume the graduate development program at previous levels of approximately 60 graduates in 2011.

For costs see question 2 below.

2. Costs associated with Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry graduate development program (including training and development, recruitment and relocation costs) are paid over two financial years.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry graduate development program numbers were:

1. 2007 – 58
2. 2008 – 57
3. 2009 – 52
4. 2010 – 0
5. 2011 – 64

The costs of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry graduate development program were:

6. 2006–07 – \$970 856
7. 2007–08 – \$1 014 239
8. 2008–09 – \$1 203 404
9. 2009–10 – \$437 430

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**Question: 05** (continued)

10. 2010–11 – \$172 136\*

\* The 2010-11 figure represents costs from 1 July 2010 to 4 March 2011. The full year expected cost will be lower than previous years due to no graduate intake for the 2010 calendar year.

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**Question: 06**

**Division/Agency:** CSD - Corporate Services Division

**Topic:** Departmental Vacancies

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

1. How many vacancies are there presently across the Department and how does this compare with the previous 5 years?
2. To what extent is vacancy control presently being used to assist with meeting savings measures?
3. At present what is the average time taken to fill vacancies and how does this compare with the previous 5 years?
4. At any point in time since December 2007 what was the highest number of vacancies?
5. At any point in time since December 2007 what was the lowest number of vacancies?

**Answer:**

3. As at 28 February 2011 the department had a total of 81 vacancies that have been advertised in the Commonwealth Gazette and not yet filled.

To provide data on the department's vacancies for the previous 5 years would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

4. Vacancy control is not being used in the department to assist with meeting savings measures.
5. As the department monitors the time taken to fill vacancies, the department is able to compare the current average time to fill a vacancy with the previous 5 years. The current average time taken to fill a vacancy is 61 calendar days. The average time taken to fill a vacancy over the past 5 years was:
  - 2010 – 70 days
  - 2009 – 62 days
  - 2008 – 82 days
  - 2007 – 82 days
  - 2006 – 80 days
6. To provide data on the highest number of vacancies since December 2007 would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
7. To provide data on the lowest number of vacancies since December 2007 would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.



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**Question: 07**

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services Division

**Topic:** Shredding/Removal of Confidential (or Similar) Documents

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

1. What was the total cost of shredding/removal of confidential (or similar) documents in DAFF since December 2007?
2. What was the total cost of shredding/removal of confidential (or similar) documents in the Minister/Parl Sec's offices since December 2007?

**Answer:**

1. The total cost of shredding/secure removal of documents in the department from 1 December 2007 to 28 February 2011 was \$389 827.
2. For the period between 1 December 2007 and 28 February 2011 Minister Burke spent \$5 476 and Minister Ludwig spent \$232 on shredding/secure removal of documents in the Minister's/Parliamentary Secretary's offices. This is a total of \$5 708.

All figures are GST exclusive and reflect the total costs of shredding/secure removal of documents. These figures reflect the cost of shredding/secure removal of both confidential and unclassified documents as people often shred and place in secure removal containers unclassified documents.

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**Question: 08**

**Division/Agency:** CSD – Corporate Services Division

**Topic:** Staff Movements

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

Can you provide details of staffing movements, including the number of staff employees as at July 1, 2010, and the number of staff employed at present. Also to include retrenchments, retirements, resignations etc. and the cost of staffing ABARES.

**Answer:**

**PART 1**

The following table outlines the number of employees as at 28 February 2011 compared to the number of employees as at July 1, 2010.

**Table 1: Employees at 1 July 2010 and Employees at 28 February 2011**

<b>Division</b>	<b>1/7/2010 FTE</b>	<b>28/02/2011 FTE</b>
ABARES	215.3	228
Agricultural Productivity	118.7	113.9
Biosecurity Services Group	3331	3421
Climate Change	97.4	87.1
Corporate Finance	74.5	116.4
Corporate Policy	109.9	114.7
Corporate Services	233.5	219.7
Executive	8	10
Sustainable Resource Management	129.8	121.8
Trade & Market Access	69.6	76.6
Graduates and Trainees	0	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>4387.6</b>	<b>4585.2</b>

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**Question:** 08 (continued)

**PART 1**

The following table outlines the staff movements between 1 July 2010 and 28 February 2011, and their movement category.

**Table 2: Staff movements broken down by category**

<b>Division</b>	<b>APS Movement</b>	<b>Resignation</b>	<b>Retirement /Invalidity/Death</b>	<b>End of Contract</b>	<b>Employer initiated inc redundancies</b>	<b>Total</b>
ABARES	6	10	1	11	0	28
AP	5	7	0	0	0	12
BSG	23.8	63.2	32.7	12.1	35.1	166.8
CC	5	7	0	0	1	13
CF	4	4.7	0	0	2	10.7
CPD	5.9	3	0.8	1.5	1.6	12.8
CSD	8.9	11	1.9	4	2	27.8
Exec	0	1	0	0	0	1
SRM	8.7	8.5	0	3	0	20.2
TMAD	3	3	1	0	0	7
G/T	0	0	0	9	0	9
Total	70.3	118.4	37.4	40.6	41.7	308.2

**PART 2:**

The 2010-11 Revised Full Year budget figure for ABARES employee expenses is \$25.561 million.

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**Question: 09**

**Division/Agency:** CSD – Corporate Services Division

**Topic:** Contracts

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Nash asked:**

1. With the number of natural disasters over the summer period, has Corporate services undertaken any outsourcing of contracts related to the flooding so as to deal with the increased workload?
2. If outsourcing of contracts has occurred, what is the cost of the new contracts and what services have contractors undertaken to perform?

**Answer:**

1. No.
2. Not applicable.