

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 190

Division/Agency: CPD – Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Update Community Cabinet

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Heffernan asked:

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?
2. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?
3. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? What was the total cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?

Answer:

1. Community Cabinet travel costs for the minister and ministerial staff are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD), with the exception of car costs for the minister, which are met by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

The cost of Minister Ludwig's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings on 2 December 2010 and 29 June 2011 is provided in the table below.

	DAFF paid costs	DoFD paid costs	Total
Minister Ludwig	\$357.60*	\$1669.15	\$2026.75

* Figure does not include COMCAR costs for the meeting on 29 June 2011 as invoices have not yet been received.

Note without consultation with the travellers, the information provided by DoFD relies on the assumption all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Cabinet meetings, was for the purposes of attending the Cabinet meetings.

The figures provided by DoFD include airfares and travelling allowance (including motor vehicle allowance) claims. The figures do not include travel:

- by taxis, because of the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge
- by COMCAR, which is charged directly to portfolio agencies
- on special purpose aircraft, which is administered by the Department of Defence.

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Question: 190 (continued)

2. Two ministerial staff attended the Community Cabinet meeting on 2 December 2010. DoFD has advised no costs were incurred for this travel.

Two ministerial staff attended the Community Cabinet meeting on 29 June 2011. DoFD has advised the costs incurred for this travel were \$1903.81.

3. One departmental officer accompanied Minister Ludwig to the Community Cabinet meeting on 2 December 2010. The cost to the department for the departmental officer's attendance at the meeting was \$739.40.

One departmental officer accompanied Minister Ludwig to the Community Cabinet meeting on 29 June 2011. The cost to the department for the departmental officer's attendance at the meeting was \$2299.66—this figure excludes COMCAR costs as invoices have not yet been received.

4. The total cost to the department and the minister's office is outlined in the table below.

	DAFF paid costs	DoFD paid costs	Total
Cost of departmental staff attending Community Cabinet	\$3039.06*	N/A	\$3039.06*
Cost of the minister and ministerial staff attending Community Cabinet	\$357.60*	\$3572.96	\$3930.56
Total	\$3369.66	\$3572.96	\$6969.62

* Figure does not include COMCAR costs for the meeting on 29 June 2011 as invoices have not yet been received.

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