

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Community Cabinet Travel Costs

Hansard Page: 7 (23/02/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Do you have figures on the minister's travel expenses for community cabinet meetings held since budget estimates?

Mr D Williamson—Since the last estimates there have been three community cabinet meetings: one in Launceston, one in Corio and one in Campbelltown. The ministerial costs of community cabinet are handled by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, so we would have to get that information for you.

Senator COLBECK—If you would, please.

Answer:

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

Community Cabinet Meeting	Costs for the minister paid by DAFF
Launceston, TAS 5 November 2008	\$502.59
Corio, VIC 7 December 2008	Nil
Campbelltown, NSW 17 February 2009	Nil

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The following information was provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Cost of commercial travel and allowances, for Community Cabinet Meetings, paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, as at 19 March 2009		
Launceston TAS, Community Cabinet Meeting of 5 November 2008		
Traveller	Fares	Travelling Allowance
The Hon Tony Burke MP	\$1,920.77	\$327.00
Total		\$2247.77
Campbelltown NSW, Community Cabinet Meeting of 17 February 2009		
Traveller	Fares	Travelling Allowance
The Hon Tony Burke MP	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$0

Note 1. The information in the table above relies on an assumption that all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Cabinet meetings, was for the purposes of attending the Cabinet meetings.

Note 2. The above figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance (including Motor Vehicle Allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge) or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).

Note 3. The financial information provided in the tables includes additional destinations for Minister Burke following the Launceston meeting. Given the nature of the flight bookings, the cost of the additional destinations is not able to be disaggregated from the cost of travel to attend Community Cabinet meetings.

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Question: CPD 02

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Reviews and consultancies done by the department

Hansard Page: 7 (23/03/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—You get all the good gigs, Dr O’Connell! What reviews is the agency currently undertaking?

Mr D Williamson—There are a number of reviews. It might be best to discuss that when the relevant areas come up, but the main review—a large-scale portfolio review—relates to the drought. The quarantine review that I think we talked about last time, as you know, is completed, and the government has put an in-principle response out. They are the two major reviews.

Senator COLBECK—But you cannot give me just a whole-of-portfolio summary of what reviews you are currently undertaking?

Mr D Williamson—Yes, we can. I can pull that together for you, yes.

Senator COLBECK—Okay. If you could, I would appreciate that. Could you give me, with that information, projected completion dates for them, along with estimated costs for each review.

Mr D Williamson—Sure. I think we provided a similar thing on notice last time, so I can structure it in the same way.

Senator COLBECK—Yes, if you could update that, that would be fine.

Mr D Williamson—Not that I am aware of.

Senator COLBECK—You probably did a similar thing for us last time in consultancies, so I might ask you to update that as well as part of this process so that we do not get bogged down in time.

Answer:

The major policy reviews currently underway as at 23 February 2009 are outlined below. Where relevant, this answer supplements information provided in response to a similar question asked by Senator Colbeck at the Supplementary Budget Senate Estimates in October 2008 (CPD 10 refers).

Note the answer to the last part of the question regarding consultancies has been provided in a response to a question asked by Senator Williams (**Corporate Services 04** refers).

Drought Policy Review

On 23 April 2008, Minister Burke announced that the Australian Government would conduct a comprehensive national review of drought policy, based upon three separate

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investigations, to help prepare farmers and local communities for climate change.

These are:

- an assessment of the impact of climate change on the nature and frequency of exceptional climate events by the Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO, publicly released on 6 July 2008
- an assessment of the social dimensions of the impacts of drought on farm families and rural communities by an Expert Social Panel, publicly released on 23 October 2008
- an Inquiry into Government Drought Support by the Productivity Commission. The commission's final report was provided to the government on 27 February 2009.

The Minister will draw on the findings of these assessments and consultations with key stakeholders, including state and territory agriculture ministers, to develop an improved drought policy. An improved policy will be finalised and announced once this has occurred.

The cost as at 28 February 2009 of the drought policy review, which commenced in 2007–2008, is approximately \$3.513 million (GST exclusive). The estimated additional cost to complete the review is \$0.645 million (GST exclusive) for the department. This estimate may change subject to the demands of the review. The Department's work on the review is expected to be completed by 30 June 2009.

1994 National Recreational Fishing Policy Review

This review is part of the development of a new Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy—a three-year initiative stemming from an election commitment to the fishing industry. An independent committee has been appointed to advise the Minister on recreational fishing related issues and to undertake the review. The terms of reference and the timeframe for the review have yet to be agreed by the committee.

The committee will be chaired by Mr Chris Natt and comprises nine other members with relevant recreational fishing sector experience. The advisory committee chair and members will be paid Category 2 level daily fees as holders of part-time public office in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2008/07 (chair daily rate of \$495, member daily rate of \$366) for attending to formal committee business. No external consultants have been engaged. The advisory committee held its first meeting on 25-26 February 2009.

Feasibility of alternatives to the cancellation provisions under the Fisheries Management Act 1994

The review, which commenced in June 2008, is considering the feasibility of alternatives to the cancellation provisions under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. It is being conducted by the department in consultation with stakeholder groups, including the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the Attorney-General's

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Department and representatives of the Commonwealth Fisheries Association, Department of Primary Industries Tasmania, Department of Fisheries Western Australia, and Recfish Australia. A draft report is expected to be released for public comment in the second half of 2009.

The review is estimated to cost approximately \$132 500, including travel, workshop facilitator, catering, teleconferencing, overheads and publication costs and departmental costs, including salaries.

Internal government review of biofuels policy

The department and the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism are undertaking an internal government review of existing Australian biofuels programs and policies. The review report is currently being considered by government.

A small team of officers from both departments have been involved in the review as part of their normal duties. As such, the department's costs associated with the review have been absorbed within its existing appropriation.

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Question: CPD 03

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Media monitoring employees

Hansard Page: 9 (23/02/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

How much have you spent so far on media monitoring this financial year?

Mr Williamson—As of the end of December, the latest figure I have is \$127,288.

Senator Colbeck – What is the staffing allocation in the department for those duties?

Mr Williamson – For media monitoring? I would have to take that on notice. We use a company to provide the actual clippings. I think we have one person who collates and distributes the media monitoring within the department.

Answer:

There is 1.0 full time equivalent officer with responsibility for administering the media monitoring contract, compiling relevant clips and summaries and internal distribution.

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Question: CPD 04

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Overseas travel costs

Hansard Page: 9-10 (23/02/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Since the last budget estimates has the minister had any overseas travel?

Mr D Williamson—Yes—two trips, from memory. He went to Italy for an FAO ministerial conference and to Spain for a food security meeting.

Senator COLBECK—Do we have the costs of those particular trips available to us yet?

Mr D Williamson—I can provide you with the departmental costs. The Italy trip cost \$15,765 and the Spain trip cost \$46,638.

Senator COLBECK—They are the departmental costs, not the ministerial costs.

Mr D Williamson—Yes.

Senator COLBECK—Do we have the ministerial costs?

Mr D Williamson—Once again, the Department of Finance and Deregulation look after those costs, so we would have to get that for your notice.

Senator COLBECK—What was the staffing delegation on each of those trips?

Mr D Williamson—One DAFF official attended the Italy trip and two went to Spain.

Senator COLBECK—Do we have any details of the programs of those two trips?

Mr D Williamson—I do not have them with me, but we have the trip itineraries, which we can get for you.

Senator COLBECK—Was there anyone outside the department who travelled on those delegations?

Mr D Williamson—A staff member from the minister's office accompanied the minister as well on each of those trips.

Senator COLBECK—Where would those costs be found?

Mr D Williamson—I believe from the finance department, again.

Senator COLBECK—So I would have to go to the Department of Finance and Deregulation to find those?

Dr O'Connell—Those costs are tabled every six months by the department of finance or ministerial travel.

Senator COLBECK—I understand. Does that include the costs of staff travel?

Dr O'Connell—I think it—

Senator COLBECK—I am aware of the ministerial stuff being tabled.

Mr D Williamson—It includes the full cost of the visits, which includes accompanying staff as well.

Senator COLBECK—Do they actually break that all down into travel accommodation and other expenses as part of that process?

Mr D Williamson—I am not sure. I would have to check for you.

Senator COLBECK—Were there any elements of the programs that the minister did not attend, do we know?

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Mr D Williamson—I do not know. Our trade and market access division will be better equipped to answer that one for you.

Senator COLBECK—I might bring that up later in the day. If you could just take on notice for me the breakdown in those particular elements of the cost of departmental travel for the two delegations. I will not ask you to give it to me now; I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Since the Senate Estimates of October 2008 the minister had two overseas trips—one to Italy and one to Spain.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD) is responsible for the payment of overseas travel costs of ministers and an accompanying spouse and *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* employees. All costs of travel paid for by DoFD are tabled in the Parliament every six months in a document titled ‘Parliamentarians’ Travel Paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation’.

The following expenses have been paid by, or charged to, the DoFD, as at 12 March 2009:

The costs for the minister and his wife (who accompanied him on the trip to Italy):

Country/ies visited	Flights	Ground transport	Accommodation	Meals and incidentals	Other expenses	Totals
Italy	\$31 053.84	\$9 459.46	\$5 287.90	\$340.78	\$675.50	\$46 817.48
Spain	\$21 553.12	\$1 962.38	\$2 830.36**	\$189.00	\$286.00**	\$26 820.86

** May include minister’s staff costs

The costs for the minister’s staff:

Country/ies visited	Flights	Ground transport	Accommodation	Meals and incidentals	Other expenses	Totals
Italy	\$15 526.92	Nil*	\$1 615.75	\$166.47	\$739.66	\$18 048.80
Spain	\$21 553.12	Nil*		\$577.64		\$22 130.76

*Included in minister’s costs

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The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry is responsible for the payment of the transport, accommodation and incidental costs for departmental staff who accompany the minister on visits. The following table sets out the departmental costs for officers accompanying the minister to Italy and Spain in 2008-2009:

Country/ies visited	Flights	Accommodation	Meals and incidentals	Other Expenses	Totals
Italy [#]	\$13 064	\$1 670	\$763	\$0	\$15 497
Spain ^{##}	\$44 490	\$2 136	\$231	\$11	\$46 868
TOTAL	\$57 554	\$3 806	\$994	\$11	\$62 365

One DAFF officer accompanied the minister in Italy

Two DAFF officers accompanied the minister in Spain

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Question: CPD05

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Communications programs

Hansard Page: 10-11 (23/02/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

What are the current programs on communications running in the department?

Mr D Williamson—Quarantine Matters! is the only formal campaign under the government's guidelines at the moment.

Senator COLBECK—So you are not running any other advertising or communications programs at all at this stage?

Mr D Williamson—No, there are a range of communications activities under various programs throughout the department, but there is a whole-of-government definition of 'campaign' and Quarantine Matters! is the only one that fits into that category.

Senator COLBECK—Do you have a list of all those programs and what the individual costs are?

Mr D Williamson—Not with me, but we could pull that together for you.

Senator COLBECK—If you could try to get that for me as quickly as you can, I would appreciate being able to have a look at that.

Mr D Williamson—So that is communications related activities around the portfolio programs?

Senator COLBECK—Yes, please. Can you do me a comparison of that with calendar year 2008 so I can just see where things are going compared to the previous calendar year?

Mr Quinlivan—I am not sure. Doing the numbers by calendar year might be a problem, particularly historically, because we probably do not—

Senator COLBECK—Fair enough. If you have the previous financial year we can make a direct comparison. That is fair enough.

Answer:

Effective communication is a core component of all of the department's work. As part of its standard operations, the department routinely communicates program and policy matters on a daily basis, in a variety of ways, with a broad range of clients and stakeholders. As such, it is not possible to quantify the specific costs of such communications.

However, the department has compiled the following information regarding particular communications activities to support major portfolio policies and programs.

This information does not include communications activities that arose from grant funding to external organisations, or which are statutory obligations (such as annual reports). It is focused on those communication activities that are sustained, deliberate and active processes for communicating to target audiences about relevant portfolio policies, programs and responsibilities.

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In addition, a number of areas, such as the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) and the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS), publish reports (either in hard copy or online versions) as a critical business delivery. Because these activities are well-documented, we have not included them in this response.

The department also reports procurement activities valued at more than \$10 000 on AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) and certain prescribed advertising and market research activities valued at more than \$10 500 in the department's annual report (www.daff.gov.au/about/annualreport).

The department would be happy to clarify or provide additional details on specific communications activities if requested.

Program	Communications activity	2007–08 costs (GST inclusive)	2008–09 costs to February 2009 (GST inclusive)
Quarantine awareness	Quarantine Matters! campaign	\$5.3 million	\$2.286 million
	Postage and distribution	\$119,594	\$91,358
	Production of publications	\$200,723	\$183,795
	Centenary of Quarantine communication activities	\$170,241	\$12,230
	Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy communication activities	\$231,549	\$108,287
	Indonesian quarantine awareness campaign	\$120,000	Nil
	Sponsorships	\$15,950	Nil
	Exhibition/displays	\$14,613	Nil
Governance and Planning	Production of publications	\$7,994	\$5,013
Fisheries Structural Adjustment Package—Securing our Fishing Future	Advertising	\$8,306	Nil
Australia's Farming Future	Production of publications	Nil	\$11,613

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Program	Communications activity	2007–08 costs (GST inclusive)	2008–09 costs to February 2009 (GST inclusive)
	Sponsorship and information provision	Nil	\$83,100
	Advertising	Nil	\$22,109
Equine Influenza response	Advertising	\$1,062,497	\$439,472
	Postage and distribution	\$850,857	Nil
Biosecurity information	Production of publications	Nil	\$15,813
National system for the prevention and management of marine pest incursions	Communication activities	\$151,771	\$13,206
Australian Animal Welfare Strategy	Communications strategy	\$31,934	Nil
	Production of publications	\$7,219	\$54,300
	Conferences and sponsorships	\$100,274	\$74,367
<i>Contours</i> departmental newsletter	Production of publications	\$57,075	\$22,796
Climate Change Adjustment Program	Production of publications	Nil	\$1,277
Non Government, Not-for-profit Equestrian Organisation Grants	Advertising	\$9,704	Nil
Rural Financial Counselling Service	Production of publications	\$9,728	\$2,591
	Advertising	\$25,926	Nil
Levies Revenue Service	Production of publications	\$8,554	\$6,993
Regional Food Producers Innovation and Productivity Program	Production of publications	Nil	\$3,895

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Program	Communications activity	2007–08 costs (GST inclusive)	2008–09 costs to February 2009 (GST inclusive)
	Advertising	Nil	\$5,996
Promoting Australian Produce	Production of publications	Nil	\$5,243
	Advertising	Nil	\$4,153
New Industries Development Program	Postage and distribution	\$17,432	Nil
	Production of publications	\$47,848	Nil
	Advertising	\$25,604	Nil
Food Innovation Grants	Production of publications	\$5,613	Nil
	Advertising	\$29,659	Nil
FarmBis National	Advertising	\$10,137	Nil
FarmReady	Advertising	Nil	\$21,887
National Agricultural Monitoring System	Video production	\$17,281	Nil
	Advertising	\$4,487	Nil
Young Innovators and Scientists Awards	Photography	\$3,055	Nil
	Production of publications	\$18,465	\$10,024
	Advertising	\$4,324	Nil
ABARE	Sponsorships	\$17,500	\$11,000
Trade advocacy	Market research	\$39,985	\$39,985
Illegal fishing	Indonesian public information campaign	\$252,164	\$80,172
Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement	Advertising	\$22,753	Nil
Aquatic Animal Health	Production of publications	Nil	\$74,595
Partners in Sustainable Production	Production of publications	\$12,970	Nil

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Program	Communications activity	2007–08 costs (GST inclusive)	2008–09 costs to February 2009 (GST inclusive)
Defeating the Weed Menace community and industry campaign advertising	Department's contribution to campaign activities conducted by DEWHA	\$1,139,829	Nil
Australian Science Festival	Sponsorship	\$33,000	Nil
Advancing Agricultural Industries program	Advertising	\$32,359	Nil
Social impact of drought	Communication activities	Nil	\$79,612
National indigenous forestry strategy	Communication activities	\$68,982	Nil
Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement	Communication activities	\$274,346	Nil
Horticulture programs	Communication tools and activities	\$80,000	Nil
Sustainable Industry Initiatives	Industry forum	\$62,270	Nil
Environmental Management Systems Pathways to Sustainable Agriculture	Communication tools and activities	\$300,033	Nil
Wheat marketing information sessions	Advertising	Nil	\$17,640
Rural Policy and Innovation	Sponsorship (Grain Growers Association)	\$20,000	Nil

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Question: CPD 06

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Sydney Office Fit-out Costs

Hansard Page: 11 (23/02/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—... Are there any ministerial office fit-outs that are being completed at this point in time?

Ms Bie—There are none in progress at the moment but the details of the ministerial office fit-outs, depending on which particular office, rests with Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Senator COLBECK—So, no office fit-outs have been completed that your department is responsible for?

Ms Bie—That have been completed?

Senator COLBECK—Yes.

Ms Bie—We have been involved in fitting out the minister's Sydney office and we also provide some equipment for the Parliament House office as well.

Senator COLBECK—Do you have costings on the ministerial office fit-out?

Ms Bie—No; I do not have any final costings at the moment. I would have to take that on notice.

Senator COLBECK—When was the fit-out completed?

Dr O'Connell—We should distinguish between the component that we are responsible for. We might be able to take that on notice and give you the costs there. That is things like the IT component and others. The broad fit-out of ministerial offices is managed by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, so we would have to get that information from them in terms of the actual fit-out proper as opposed to the provision of services, which is really what we deal with—such as IT services, fax machines, phones and stuff like that. But the actual office fit-out is not our business; that is the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Senator COLBECK—So you will take on notice for me the component of the fit-out that your agency was responsible for and give me some information as to what that was.

Answer:

Under the Ministers of State Entitlements 2007, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is responsible for providing additional or alternative furniture or equipment requested by the minister (including additional information technology and communications equipment) for the minister's offices and any ongoing costs associated with office telephone services and data transmission services in a combined ministerial/electorate office.

DAFF funded the relocation and installation of information technology and communications equipment when the minister moved his combined

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ministerial/electorate office in Sydney in December 2008. The costs and components of the relocation are provided in the table below. As part of the refurbishment, the department is upgrading the minister's phone system to support the requirements of the ministerial office. The estimated costs for this upgrade are included in the table below. The upgrade is expected to be completed by May 2009.

Costs paid for by DAFF associated with the minister's Sydney office relocation:

Components	Costs
Relocation of equipment and testing to confirm connectivity	\$1,274.02
Cabling	\$6,162.40
Upgrade of phone system	\$19,732.56
Total	\$27,169.00

The Department of Finance and Deregulation is responsible for the other costs associated with the fit-out of the minister's Sydney office.

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Question: CPD 07

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Sydney Office Fit-out Costs

Hansard Page: 12 (23/02/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Is the Sydney office at the minister's electorate office or is it a separate office?

Ms Bie—It is a combined office.

Senator COLBECK—You say that you do not have all the final figures at this point in time?

Ms Bie—No.

Senator COLBECK—What would be the time frame that you would expect to have that detail, given that it was completed just before Christmas?

Ms Bie—We could probably get that for you in the next week or so.

Dr O'Connell—We will take that on notice and give it to you in the normal period.

Senator COLBECK—That is fine. I understand that. And we will have to go to the Department of Finance and Deregulation to find the details of the actual fit-out?

Ms Bie—Yes.

Senator COLBECK—Was that a completely new site, do you know, or was it an extension of the existing office?

Ms Bie—The minister moved within the building.

Senator COLBECK—When you say 'within' the building', is he on the ground floor or is he on the first floor?

Ms Bie—I believe he is on the first floor.

Senator COLBECK—If you could just give us the details of that, that would be great.

Answer:

Please refer to answer for **CPD 06**.

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Question: CPD 08

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Agricultural Finance Forum attendees

Hansard Page: 17 (23/02/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—When should I ask questions about the Agricultural Finance Forum? Would now be a good time? How many meetings of the Agricultural Finance Forum have occurred since November 2007?

Mr Williamson—I believe the answer is one.

Senator COLBECK—When did that occur?

Mr Williamson—It was November last year, from memory. Yes.

Senator COLBECK—So that was subsequent to the rural banking emergency summit?

Mr Williamson—No; that was a special meeting of the Agricultural Finance Forum.

Senator COLBECK—So it was a special meeting of the Agricultural Finance Forum?

Mr Williamson—Yes.

Senator COLBECK—It was not actually advertised as a meeting of the Agricultural Finance Forum.

When was that meeting scheduled?

Mr Williamson—I might ask Mr Power to help me with that.

Mr Power—Senator, I do not have the exact dates of when it was scheduled, but it was shortly before the meeting was held.

Senator COLBECK—So it was announced on 17 October and held on 18 October?

Mr Power—I do not have the details with me; I am sorry.

Senator COLBECK—Those are the dates that I have. Is there a program for meetings of the forum?

Mr Power—No, there is not. The forum is held on an as-required basis.

Answer:

See **CPD 08 - attachment**.

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Question: CPD 09

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Agricultural Finance Forum attendees

Hansard Page: 17 (23/02/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Who were the attendees at that meeting?

Dr O’Connell—I think we would have to take that on notice.

Senator COLBECK—Sorry?

Mr Williamson—We would have to take that on notice. I can get you an attendees list.

Dr O’Connell—It was certainly all the major players in the agricultural finance area.

Senator COLBECK—Could you do a comparison list with those who would have been around the table, say, two or three years ago, so we can get a sense of the organisations that were involved then and how the forum might have metamorphosed now.

Answer:

Refer to answer for **CPD 08**.

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Question: CPD 10

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Ministerial video production

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Williams asked:

1. Who edits and produces the videos on the minister's website?
2. Did the department purchase a video and/or editing program to produce these videos?
3. How much did these items or any other items associated with the production of the minister's videos/podcasts cost?
4. Does anyone from the department or minister's office travel with the minister to film these videos?
5. How much travel allowance have they been paid?
6. What are their other duties?
7. When did they start with the department?
8. Were they specifically hired because of their ability to produce videos?

Answer:

1. Travel videos on the minister's website are filmed by ministerial staff accompanying the minister and are edited and loaded to the website by departmental officers.
2. Yes.
3. The cost of video camera equipment purchased for the minister's office is \$3176.54.
4. No-one from the department travels with the minister specifically to film videos. On occasions a staff member of the minister's office will film, but does not specifically travel for that purpose.
5. Not applicable
6. Not applicable
7. Not applicable
8. Not applicable

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Question: CPD 11

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Reviews and consultancies done by the department

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Williams asked:

1. How many reviews, committees, taskforces, and inquiries have been started or formed since 24th November, 2008?
2. What is the current status of each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries currently underway?
3. Please indicate whether they will be released publicly and if so when.
4. What is the purpose of each of these reviews, committees, and taskforces and inquiries?
5. Who is undertaking each of these reviews, committees, and taskforces and inquiries? Provide a list of Members, their qualifications and remuneration (including daily fees, Travel Allowance
6. How much is each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries costing? Provide a breakdown of the cost of each individual review, committee, taskforce and inquiry?

Answer:

No major reviews, committee, taskforces or inquiries have been started or formed since 24 November 2008. An update on major reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries underway by the department as at 23 February 2009 has been provided in response to a question asked by Senator Colbeck (**CPD 02** refers).