

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 01

Topic: NCA Budget Surplus

Hansard Page: p. 24 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

When did the Authority last project a budget surplus?

Answer:

The NCA has not projected a budget surplus since the introduction of the accrual budget framework in 1999-2000.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 02

Topic: Salary Costs to Output

Hansard Page: p.25 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

So could you isolate the salary costs to output?

Answer:

The salary costs per output for the 2005-2006 financial year (Budgeted) are estimated as follows:

Output 1:	\$2.005 million
Output 2:	\$2.295 million
Output 3:	\$2.544 million

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 03

Topic: Draft Business Plan Projects

Hansard Page: p.26 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

Do I take it that there is an overall budget for the additional amounts that would be budgeted in the outputs at this stage? (Question includes components that might, for example, be for consultancies)

Answer:

The NCA annual business plan is published on the internet at www.nationalcapital.gov.au/about/corporate/publications

The NCA delivers its annual business plan through professional staff resources and outsourced arrangements. The outsourced services include consultants for planning, design, audit and legal services to meet specialised skill needs not available within the agency. Other services are performed by contractors for corporate services such as IT and payroll, construction of new capital works or replacement capital works, and land and asset management services in relation to National Land administered on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Depending on the nature of the outsourced service these may be funded from either Departmental or Administered revenues.

Whereas some consultants perform individual services, others provide services as part of a larger project for example for an investigation, design and construction project. With these projects, it is common place for a head consultant or contractor to engage specialist consultants that are included within their tender.

A list of consultancies with a value greater than \$10,000 is compiled each year as part of the Annual Report preparation. The NCA intends to publish this list for 2004-2005 on its internet site.

The estimated supplier costs (excluding consultancies) and estimated consultancy costs per output funded from Departmental revenue for the 2005-2006 financial year are:

	Supplier Costs	Consultant Costs
Output 1:	\$1.044m	\$0.178m
Output 2:	\$2.845m	\$0.210m
Output 3:	\$7.513m	\$0.428m

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 04

Topic: NCA New Projects

Hansard Page: p.26 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

So the NCA was not seeking funding for any new projects in the budget.

Answer:

This question was **answered** during the Senate Budget Estimates proceedings of 27 May 2005.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 05

Topic: NCA 'Recalibration'

Hansard Page: p.28 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

Perhaps the Parliamentary Secretary at the table, Senator Collbeck, can ask Minister Lloyd if he would elaborate on what he means by 'recalibration' of the NCA.

Answer:

In response to questions regarding any recalibration of the National Capital Authority, Minister Lloyd has in the past rejected calls to restrict the power of the Authority. There are currently no plans to recalibrate the NCA.

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Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 06

Topic: Australia Day Concert

Hansard Page: p.30 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

Was the 2004 figure inclusive or exclusive of GST?

Answer:

The figure was inclusive of GST.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 07

Topic: National Carillon

Hansard Page: p.31 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

- a) Can the Committee have a breakdown of the costs associated with maintaining the Carillon for the current financial year?
- b) What revenue was generated from tours of the National Carillon?
- c) What is the indicative budget for 2005 – 06?.....What are you expecting to spend to maintain it and how much revenue is expected?

Answer:

Fire:	\$1,947.00
Mechanical:	\$1,440.00
Electrical:	\$2,000.00
Security:	\$1,650.00
Hydraulic:	\$700.00
Structure:	\$300.00
Drainage:	\$700.00
External:	\$700.00
Cleaning:	\$4,500.00

Total: \$13,937.00

- a) \$2,904 in revenue was generated by tours from 1 July 2004 to 17 June 2005. A further \$900 was generated by wedding recitals.
- b) The cost of maintenance in 2005-2006 is estimated at \$14,000. The estimated revenue in 2005-2006 is \$4,400 including tours and wedding recitals.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 08

Topic: Sale of Christmas Tree

Hansard Page: p.32 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

How has the gift to the ACT Government been reflected in the Budget Papers?

Answer:

The Christmas Tree was transferred from the NCA to the ACT Government for a consideration of \$1. The depreciated value at the time of transfer was \$72,920 (including decorations). The accounting treatment to reflect the transfer is to write off the depreciated value of the asset, and to recognise the consideration received as revenue.

The accounting treatment of the transfer is provided in the 2004-2005 Portfolio Budget Statements at:

Page 175, Column Headed: 2004-05 Estimated Actual, Item: Net Write Down of Assets; and

Page 176, Column Headed: 2004-05 Estimated Actual, Item: Infrastructure Plant and Equipment.

These items include a number of financial transactions and the transfer of the Christmas Tree is not individually recognised.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 09

Topic: Capitals Alliance Trip Costs

Hansard Page: p.33 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

Can we get a breakdown of those costs?

Answer:

Washington 2003 Capitals Alliance Costs:

Airfares (economy)	\$13,851.78
Taxis, buses etc.	\$217.19
Accommodation	\$9,140.00
Meals etc	\$5,366.43
Incidental expenses	<u>\$1,663.91</u>
Total	\$30,239.31

These costs include travel to Washington, Ottawa and Chicago.

Brasilia 2004 Capitals Alliance Costs:

Airfares (economy)	\$3,361.93
Taxis	\$ 58.23
Accommodation	\$ 816.87
Meals etc	\$3,005.00
Incidental expenses	<u>\$1,255.00</u>
Total	\$8,497.03

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 10

Topic: Capitals Alliance 2005-06

Hansard Page: p.33 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator O'Brien asked:

Can we be appraised once that decision is made? (Refers to NCA delegation to attend Capitals Alliance meeting in September 2005).

Answer:

The NCA proposes to send a delegation of 5 to the meeting of the Capitals Alliance in Ottawa in September 2005.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 11

Topic: Griffin Legacy

Hansard Page: p.35 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ferris asked:

It is the appropriations table on page 150 [*Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06: Transport and Regional Services Portfolio.*]. How much of that \$29 million is going to be spent on the Griffin Legacy Program?

Answer:

The NCA's primary roles in the implementation and promotion of the *Griffin Legacy* initiatives will be to facilitate its implementation through the collaboration of the principal Australian and ACT Government land holding agencies; the development of Master Plans; the administration of works approval regulation in accordance with the National Capital Plan; and the promotion of the *Griffin Legacy* through the development of education and outreach materials.

The NCA will resource these activities primarily through its professional staff funded from Output 1 and Output 2.

In addition to salary costs, it is estimated that the NCA will allocate approximately \$0.123m towards various aspects of the *Griffin Legacy* initiatives during 2005-2006.

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 12

Topic: Tracking correspondence between NCA – Senator Ferris

Hansard Page: p.35 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ferris asked:

Can you tell me why that letter has not been acknowledged or answered? (Original correspondence from Senator Ferris concerns recognition of Marion Mahony Griffin).

Answer:

This correspondence was inadvertently held in the NCA offices. A response was sent to Senator Ferris on 6 June 2005.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 13

Topic: Marion Mahony Griffin in the National Capital Exhibition

Hansard Page: p.36 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Lundy asked:

Is she recognised as an architect in that exhibition?

Answer:

Yes.

In the National Capital Exhibition, Marion Mahony Griffin is referenced both individually and in association with her husband, Walter Burley Griffin. The following locations have individual references:

Cast Bronze Bust

Inscription:

Marion Lucy Mahony 1871-1961

Wife of Walter Burley Griffin, architect and illustrator of his plans for the winning design for Canberra

Sculptor: Ninon Geier (1991)

Displayed in association with a reproduction Marion Mahony Griffin colour-rendering *View from Summit of Mount Ainslie*

Griffins Display

Inscription:

Marion Mahony Griffin (1871-1961) was an architect – the first woman to receive a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the first woman architect in Illinois. She was also Griffin's wife. Her sensitive and beautifully-coloured drawings of Griffin's submission contributed to the success of the design.

Displayed in association with a portrait photograph of Marion Mahony Griffin and overlain on a reproduction colour-rendering *Southerly Site of Water Axis Government Group*, and other information on the Griffins.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA14

Topic: Parking in Parliamentary Triangle

Hansard Page: p.46 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Lundy asked:

From my recollection, that was not shown to be the definitive trend in the way parking and pay parking were handled in the Parliamentary Triangle. I am just making that observation. So, it remains a problem. Can you take it on notice to provide the Committee with all the relevant information—that is, the Government response and the steps you have taken subsequently to address this issue and what the plans are?

Answer:

Government Response to the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories Report *Not a Town Centre: the Proposal for Pay Parking in the Parliamentary Zone* - (Tabled 23 November 2004) was as follows:

Agree:

The Government acknowledges that the current parking arrangements in the Parliamentary Zone need to be improved. However, the Government has not made a decision about the introduction of pay parking in the Parliamentary Zone at this time. The Government therefore supports development of a detailed parking proposal which addresses all of the concerns raised by the Committee.

The Government considers it preferable that a seamless approach be adopted for the management of parking arrangements in the Parliamentary Zone and the surrounding areas. The recommended collaboration between the NCA and the ACT Government is therefore crucial to a successful outcome. The ACT Government has confirmed its willingness to continue to work closely with the NCA on this matter.

The Government supports the need for a thorough, detailed, and responsive consultation by the NCA with all relevant stakeholders.

In February 2005, the Authority noted the proposed approach to implement the Government response to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories report into pay parking in the Parliamentary Zone. This approach included the formation of a steering committee to oversee the consultation and the development of a detailed parking proposal.

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads was advised of the proposal in April 2005.

In June 2005, the NCA wrote inviting officials from Government agencies with a direct interest in parking policy for the Parliamentary Zone. Both Australian Government and ACT Government agencies are represented.

The agencies invited to the Steering Committee are:

Department of Transport and Regional Services
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
Department of Finance and Administration
Department of Parliamentary Services
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Australian Greenhouse Office
ACT Chief Minister's Department
ACT Government Department of Urban Services

The Steering Committee's Terms of Reference are to:

Guide the process for thorough consultation with all relevant stakeholders in relation to the development of a detailed pay parking proposal for the Parliamentary Zone that recognises the isolation of the Zone from commercial facilities and clearly defines the following characteristics:

- *the infrastructure to be built – including the timeframe and funding arrangements,*
- *the parking fees to be introduced – including provision to exclude visitors, volunteers and people with disabilities; and*
- *contingencies, should the Parliamentary Zone experience further encroachment of commuters from the adjacent Barton precinct.*

Stakeholder consultation will include the national cultural institutions, Australian Government agencies located in or around the Parliamentary Zone and relevant ACT Government agencies. It is intended to also consult with other groups that made submissions to the Committee's Inquiry (such as the Community and Public Sector Union).

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 15

Topic: Lennox Hewitt Discrimination Claim

Hansard Page: p.50 (Friday, 27/5/05)

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Lundy asked:

If that is the case then the lessor with the concern, Sir Lennox Hewitt, who has appeared before this Committee on a number of occasions, has been specifically discriminated against in the construct of this Draft Amendment. That is why he sought clarification. The NCA, I thought quite genuinely, bent over backwards to provide reassurance to that particular lessor that he would not be discriminated against—and now you have got differential treatment for those two blocks in the Amendment.

Ms Pegrum—I will have to go back to the assurance we gave that resident, because I do not have that evidence here. I will take this on notice and we will try and respond to you this afternoon.

Senator LUNDY—If you could provide a formal response. Go back to that original query by the Joint Standing Committee on behalf of this particular lessor, Sir Lennox Hewitt. He has made a number of submissions and expressed a very clear view that he felt he was discriminated against. It was entirely appropriate for the Committee to seek assurances from the NCA that there was no discriminatory treatment being applied. I believe we got that assurance. I do not believe this Draft Amendment reflects the assurance that we were given by the NCA.

Answer:

A written response was provided to the Committee Secretariat on 27 May 2005.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 16

Topic: Employee Accreditation

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

The questions for all Departments and Agencies under your Portfolio. It's a follow-up to a question we asked in December.

Regarding the employees that your Department or Agency has identified as having...

- a) fluency
- b) accredited translator
- c) accredited interpreter

Of these employees, please indicate what the Department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the Department and those whose were not?

Answer:

The NCA has not identified any employees with these skills.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 17

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

What amount did the Department/Agency spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority spent \$272,815.68 (excluding GST) outsourced legal practitioners.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 18

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked

What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?

Answer

\$272, 815 (excluding GST).

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 19

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

What amount did the Department/Agency spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)

Answer:

Nil response.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 20

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

Does the Department/Agency have an in-house Legal Section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this Section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority does not have an in-house Legal Section.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 21

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Department/Agency?

Answer:

The National Capital Authority would expect to expend the same order of costs as for 2004-2005.

Legal costs are subject to external demands, including litigation before the Courts that are not able to accurately be estimated.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 22

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Department/Agency in 2004/2005?

Answer:

The Australian Government Solicitor.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 23

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?

Answer:

\$272, 815.68

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 24

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

Does the Department/Agency use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?

Answer:

No. Other than for matters covered under the Legal Services Directions, the National Capital Authority received legal services on an individual request-basis, costing less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) in each case.

The National Capital Authority complies with the Legal Services Directions issued by the Attorney-General under section 55ZF of the *Judiciary Act* 1903, effective from 1 September 1999, to apply to Commonwealth legal services. The Directions set out the framework and requirements for the performance of Commonwealth legal services and, in particular, the conduct of litigation by Commonwealth agencies.

The National Capital Authority aims to establish a Legal Services Panel during 2005-2006.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 25

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?

Answer:

Please see response **NCA 24**.

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 26

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?

Answer:

Please see response to **NCA 24**.

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Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 27

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

In 2004/2005, did the Department/Agency obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?

Answer:

Please see response to NCA 24.

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Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: NCA 28

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

In 2004/2005 did the Department/Agency procure any legal services under the thresholds required for ‘covered procurements’ (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.

Answer:

Attached list provides this breakdown of costs.

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

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Question No.: NCA 29

Topic: Legal Services Expenditure

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing additional written question

Output: National Capital Authority

Senator Ludwig asked:

In 2004/05 did the Department/Agency contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.

Answer:

Nil response.