

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Acting Senior Executive Service (SES) Arrangements

Hansard Page: 22-23 (24/05/2010)

Senator Ian Macdonald asked:

Senator COLBECK—Which is effectively my question. My question is: what is the time frame and what is the process to actually resolve those acting positions? Is there intention to make the people who are acting in them permanent?

Dr O'Connell—That is an internal staffing decision, and obviously that depends on how we manage our processes.

Senator COLBECK—Are there recruitment processes in place to deal with those?

Dr O'Connell—Not necessarily with all the vacancies that you are looking at. I would have to take on notice the specifics of the different positions that you are looking at, but obviously those go to how we are managing the SES planning overall.

Senator COLBECK—There is one officer who has been in an acting position since that position was created—the BSG projects division. Is there any reason why that continues to be an acting position?

Dr O'Connell—The position there is one where the relevant substantive officer is on leave. It might be most useful if we are able to provide you with an account overall, if that is helpful, if you have an interest in what is happening on the SES acting positions.

Senator COLBECK—As of today, there is one deputy secretary that has been resolved and there is another in corporate services that has been resolved because of the previous decision.

Dr O'Connell—There will be a further one resolved also on that. There would be the HR general manager position as well. Some of these things rattle through, if you like.

Senator COLBECK—They are cascading.

Dr O'Connell—They can cascade, depending on how they work. Yes.

Senator COLBECK—Can we go back to the BSG position, which has been an acting position for almost the entire life of that particular division. Is there a reason why that is in that state?

Dr O'Connell—I am perhaps unclear as to the specifics there, but I think that with the relevant position that you are talking about, the division head, the executive manager is on leave, and before that it was a substantive position, I think. It is strategic projects. No, I think that was substantively occupied before and he is just on Leave—on long service leave. As I say, if you are comfortable, I can just provide you with an account of the lengths of actings in these positions and the reasons.

Senator COLBECK—That might help.

Answer:

Attached is the organisational chart as at 24 May 2010 which indicated that with the arrival of Rhondda Dickson on 24 May 2010, the acting deputy secretary position was

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 01 (continued)

resolved along with a number of the acting arrangements in Corporate Services Division.

Between 24 May 2010 and 11 June 2010, an additional two positions where acting arrangements were previously in place, have had recruitment actions finalised.

Arrangements for resolving the acting SES arrangements (as listed on the attached organisational chart) are summarised below:

Sustainable Resource Management Division

Officer	Acting From	Acting To	Reason
Bernadette O'Neil	15 April 2010	18 July 2010	Substantive occupant was on long service leave.
Margaret Allan	14 April 2009	30 June 2010	Recruitment action for this position has been finalised. Successful applicant commenced on 1 July 2010.

Corporate Policy Division

Officer	Acting From	Acting To	Reason
Ann McDonald	1 March 2010	10 September 2010	Vacant position filled by internal transfer.

Corporate Services Division

Officer	Acting From	Acting To	Reason
Maureen Lees	16 March 2010	30 June 2010	Substantive occupant was acting in a different position and then offline undertaking a specific project. Substantive occupant returned to position on 1 July 2010.

BSG Animal Division

Officer	Acting From	Acting To	Reason
Lee Cale	30 November 2009	30 September 2010	Substantive occupant was on leave and is now in a different position.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 01 (continued)

BSG Quarantine Operations Division

Officer	Acting From	Acting To	Reason
Peter Moore	2 February 2010	28 January 2011	Position has been established to manage a specific project

BSG Strategic Projects Division

Officer	Acting From	Acting To	Reason
Russell Phillips	25 March 2010	31 October 2010	Substantive occupant is on leave.
Kirsty Faichney	22 October 2008	4 July 2010	Substantive occupant commenced on 5 July 2010.
Debbie Langford	12 April 2010	31 July 2010	Substantive occupant was acting in a different position.

Bureau of Rural Sciences

Officer	Acting From	Acting To	Reason
Kim Ritman	1 July 2009	31 March 2011	Temporary position created to establish new BRS/ABARE structure.
Gavan Begg	20 April 2010	30 September 2010	Recruitment action is underway.
John Sims	14 September 2009	30 September 2010	Substantive occupant is on temporary transfer to another agency.
Annette Blyton	15 December 2008	2 June 2010	Recruitment action for this position has been finalised. Ms Blyton became the substantive occupant of this position on 3 June 2010.

[Attachment to CSD 01]

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 02

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)?
2. What level are these staff?
3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?
4. Since additional estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

1. Between 9 February 2010 and 24 May 2010 inclusive 133 ongoing employees commenced in the department.
2. The levels of the ongoing employees who commenced with the department between 9 February 2010 and 24 May 2010 inclusive are shown in the table below.

Classification	Total
APS2	28
APS3	12
APS4	22
APS5	9
APS6	26
EL1	22
EL2	10
SES1	3
SES3	1
Total	133

3. As at 24 May 2010 the department employed 209 non-ongoing staff (including casual employees) and 8 staff on temporary transfer from another government agency. Between 9 February 2010 and 24 May 2010, 85 non-ongoing staff have commenced in the department.
4. Between 9 February 2010 and 24 May 2010 inclusive 85 non-ongoing employees commenced in the department. The average length of the employment contract for these staff was 152 calendar days.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 03

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Efficiency Dividend and staffing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
 - a. Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?
 - b. Since additional estimates?
 - c. If so, where and at what level?
2. Are there any plans for staff reduction?
3. If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
4. If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say 'improvement to strategic work practices' or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)
5. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs?
6. If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

1.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No.
 - c. There have been no specific staff reductions as a result of the efficiency dividend. On introduction of the efficiency dividend the department's budget was adjusted to achieve the target savings as a part of the annual business planning process. This budget was then distributed across the department, including actions such as restructuring of corporate functions, and reductions in travel and consultancies where practical. Staffing reductions were made across all levels.
2. There are no current plans for a reduction in staffing outside the arrangements for the Export Certification Reform Program.
3. See response to question 2.
4. Savings of \$4.5 million over four years (\$0.9 million 2010-11; \$1.2 million 2011-12; \$1.3 million 2012-13; \$1.1 million 2013-14) will be achieved in the Landcare program through not filling existing staff vacancies.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 03 (continued)

5. The department will recommence its graduate program in 2011 and recruit up to 70 graduates. An additional 15 Indigenous trainees from the Australian Public Service Commission's Indigenous and Entry Level Recruitment Program will be recruited to commence from September 2010.
6. The department plans to increase graduate intake by up to 10 individuals in 2011 to meet staffing requirements. The department has also committed to increasing Indigenous trainees by 13.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 04

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?
2. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
3. For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.
4. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer:

1. Total amount spent on official hospitality by the department for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010 was \$60 558.
2. See **Attachment A**.
3. Total amount spent on official hospitality by the Minister's office for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010 was \$232.
4. See **Attachment B**.

[2 Attachments to CSD 04 – see below]

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 04 (continued)

Attachment A - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Official Hospitality - 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010

Date of Event	Purpose	Location	Total Cost \$
1/07/2009	Rural Research & Development Council Meeting - Dinner	Sydney	839
28/7/2009-8/8/2009	Australia China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement Dryland Farming Visits	Various	2 084
28/07/2009	New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - Dinner	Adelaide	273
11/08/2009	Statutory Fishing Rights Allocation Review Interview Process - Dinner	Canberra	526
24/08/2009	Industry Cargo Consultative Committee Meeting	Canberra	359
26/08/2009	Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement Meetings - Catering	Canberra	614
31/08/2009	Dairy Australia - Lunch	Canberra	236
4/09/2009	QLD Regional Management Team - Dinner	Cairns	222
8/09/2009	Signing the MOU between the department and ANU Enterprise Indigenous Land Corporation - Afternoon Tea	Canberra	23
14/09/2009	Science Awards Presentation - Dinner	Canberra	20 472
15/09/2009	Australia & New Zealand Technical Working Group on Animal & Plant Health - Dinner	Canberra	1 421
30/09/2009	Companion Animal Working Group workshop - Dinner	Canberra	569

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Date of Event	Purpose	Location	Total Cost \$
1/10/2009	United States Department of Agriculture Meeting - Lunch	Canberra	19
8/10/2009	China Trade Dialogue Project - Lunch	Canberra	152
14/10/2009	National BioSIRT Standards Committee Meeting - Dinner	Adelaide	757
14/10/2009	Korea National Plant Quarantine Service - Dinner	Jeju - Korea	455
28/10/2009	Indonesian Ministry of Fisheries and Indonesian Embassy Official - Bilateral Meeting - Lunch	Adelaide	71
30/10/2009	Forest and Wood Products Council Meeting - Lunch	Canberra	435
31/10/2009	Japanese Government Delegations - Refreshments and Lunch	Brisbane & Toowoomba	191
1/11/2009	Farmready Reimbursement Grant Program - Morning Tea for 5000th grant	Canberra	90
2/11/2009	Indonesian Verification Visit on Australian Food Safety - Lunch & Dinner	Brisbane	2 484
5/11/2009	Bilateral discussions between Biosecurity Group and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Dinner	Canberra	503
5/11/2009	United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Dinner	Canberra	553
5/11/2009	Chilean Officials visit - Lunch	Sydney	146
7/11/2009-13/11/2009	Australia China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement Sheepmeat Industry Visits	Various	2 272
11/11/2009	National Landcare Forum – afternoon tea for field tour leaders	Adelaide	134
12/11/2009-26/11/2009	Australian Biosecurity Award Presentations	Various	4 897
17/11/2009	Chinese ACACA Delegation - Lunch	Wagga Wagga	79
18/11/2009	Rural Financial Counselling Service Conference - Lunch	Canberra	238

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Date of Event	Purpose	Location	Total Cost \$
24/11/2009	Rural Financial Counselling Service Conference - State Government Departments - Lunch	Canberra	275
27/11/2009	Industry Roundtable refreshments and venue hire package	Sydney	2 320
1/12/2009	FarmReady Industry Grant Round 2 Advisory Panel Working group - Lunch	Canberra	90
1/12/2009	Importer Forum - Lunch	Canberra	240
1/12/2009	Pollination Continuity Strategy Steering Committee Meeting - Lunch	Canberra	96
3/12/2009	Korean Agriculture delegation and Dept of Primary Industries Tasmania in relation to the verification visit by Korean delegates for Tasmanian cherries to Korea - Dinner.	Hobart	229
7/12/2009	National Residue Survey Laboratory Performance Evaluation Committee meeting - Dinner	Canberra	250
8/12/2009	Korean Free Trade Agreement Delegates - Lunch	Canberra	342
8/12/2010	OECD Visiting Delegation – Risk Management Case Study - Lunch	Canberra	248
9/12/2009	National BioSIRT Development Committee Meeting - Dinner	Canberra	344
10/12/2009	Community Networks and Capacity Building Round of Next Generation Farmers and Recognising Women Farmers delegates- Dinner	Canberra	115
11/12/2009	Community Networks and Capacity Building panel assessment - Lunch	Canberra	234
11/12/2009	Indonesian Verification Visit on Australian Food Safety	Perth	470
14/12/2009	National Landcare Forum – afternoon tea for field tour leaders	Adelaide	72
1/01/2010	Caring for Our Country – Community Networking with local land management groups	Adelaide	136
11/01/2010	Vietnamese Department of Animal Health - Lunch	Canberra	284

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Date of Event	Purpose	Location	Total Cost \$
11/01/2010	Japanese Delegation - Australia's export meat establishments and market access to Japan - Dinner	Canberra	552
12/01/2010	Tiwi Islands - SES Connections Visit - Lunch	Tiwi Island NT	50
13/01/2010	Office of the WA Minister for Agriculture - Staff Member - Breakfast	Perth	65
15/01/2010	Drought Planning and Risk Assessment Workshop - Lunch	Canberra	138
15/01/2010	Vietnamese Delegation – market access for meat and meat products to Vietnam – Morning Tea	Canberra	122
20/01/2010	National Rural Advisory Council Meeting - Dinner	Canberra	699
29/01/2010	Stakeholder consultation on Southern Bluefin Tuna matters - Lunch	Canberra	161
31/01/2010	Vietnamese Department of Animal Health Delegation - Lunch	Canberra	227
31/01/2010	Meeting with Industry Representatives on the Implementation of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - Dinner	Canberra	1 211
31/01/2010	Korean Delegation and Department of Primary Industry representatives on the export of Tasmanian cherries - Dinner	Hobart	229
3/02/2010	National Biosecurity Committee Meeting - Dinner	Sydney	1 135
11/02/2010	Pollination Continuity Strategy Steering Committee Meeting - Lunch	Canberra	111
15/02/2010	New Zealand Food Safety Authority official visit - Dinner	Canberra	273
28/02/2010	Replenish internal hospitality stocks	Canberra	104
2/03/2010	ABARE Outlook Conference - Lunch	Canberra	660
4/03/2010	State/Regional Economist meeting - Catering	Canberra	1 439
22/03/2010	ACACA International Forestry Delegation - Lunch	Canberra	205
23/03/2010	EMNCC Industry Information Session	Darwin	500

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Date of Event	Purpose	Location	Total Cost \$
26/03/2010	Red Meat Market Access Committee - Working Lunch	Canberra	350
30/03/2010	QPAR Industry Information Session	Darwin	500
31/03/2010	Indian Bilateral meeting - Dinner	New Dehli	606
31/03/2010	Meeting with Industry Representatives on the Implementation of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - Dinner	Canberra	384
5- 6/04/2010	Korea Rural Economic Institute Delegation – catering	Canberra	660
8/04/2010	Animal Diseases Study/Chinese Technical Delegates - Lunch	Canberra	127
15- 16/04/2010	Class One QAP Accreditation Meeting - Lunch	Darwin	340
29/04/2010	National Rural Advisory Council - Dinner	Canberra	1 607
29/04/2010	Meeting with the President of the United States National Retail Federation - Lunch	Canberra	248
30/04/2010	Japan Food service Association – Australia Japan FTA - Dinner	Canberra	153
Various	Replenishment of refreshment stocks for industry meetings and visiting delegations	Canberra	843
			\$60 558

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Attachment B - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Official Hospitality - 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010

Date of Event	Purpose	Location	Total Cost \$
22/03/2010	Landcare Council Chair Members and National Landcare Facilitator - Dinner	Adelaide	232
			232

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 05

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Publication of discretionary grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Answer:

Yes. The department has complied with the requirements for publication of grants information on agencies' websites, introduced from 1 January 2009 (set out in the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines).

Information on individual grants awarded by the department since 1 January 2009 is available at www.daff.gov.au under reporting obligations.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 06

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

1. The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) outlines the statutory requirements agencies must meet when responding to requests. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has issued guidelines to assist agencies process Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and apply the FOI Act. These guidelines may be found at <http://www.dPMC.gov.au/foi/guidelines.cfm>.
2. Between 1 July 2009 and 30 April 2010, the department received 14 FOI requests.
3. As at 30 April 2010, of the 14 received:
 - 1 request resulted in full access being granted
 - 2 requests resulted in partial access being granted
 - 1 request was not progressed as no documents were held by the department
 - 3 requests were withdrawn
 - no requests were denied
 - 7 were still being processed.
4. Since 1 July 2009, no conclusive certificates have been issued by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, or by a principal officer of the department on the minister's behalf.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 07

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Consultancy contracts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc).
2. Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total *spending* on consultancies and also *value of contracts awarded*? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.
3. Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website?
4. Are the figures available on that site correct?
5. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year?
6. Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

All answers should be current at the time the answer is submitted.

Answer:

1. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has entered into 472 consultancies for the period 1 December 2007 to 30 April 2010.
Details of the department's consultancy contracts, including descriptions, are available through AusTender, the government's electronic procurement information system.
2. The department's expenditure on new and ongoing consultancies during the period 1 December 2007 to 30 April 2010 was \$30 439 848. \$8 059 767 was spent between December 2007 and June 2008, \$14 704 039 was spent during 2008-09 and \$8 884 688 was spent during the current financial year to 31 May 2010.
The total value of consultancy contracts with a value greater than \$10 000 between 1 December 2007 and 31 May 2010 was \$32 999 778. \$10 667 073 was awarded between December 2007 and June 2008, \$16 537 050 was awarded

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 07 (continued)

in 2008-09 and \$5 795 655 was awarded during the current financial year to 31 May 2010.

Details of the department's consultancy contracts, including the values of individual contracts awarded are available through AusTender.

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

5&6 Planned consultancies with an expected value of more than \$80,000 are included in the department's Annual Procurement Plan (APP) which is published on AusTender at the commencement of each financial year and updated throughout the year to provide details of all planned approaches to market.

The department will publish its 2010-11 APP by 1 July 2010, which will include approaches to market planned for 2010-11.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 08

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Staff Turnover

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the annual staff turnover in your organisation?
2. If, as is proposed by the Opposition, you were not able to replace those staff for a period of 2 years, what effect would that have on the ability of your organisation to discharge its statutory functions?
3. What areas of your department would you look to cut?
4. Would your organisation simply look to make up the shortfall by engaging non-permanent contractors?

Answer:

1. The annual staff turnover for the department was 9.5% from 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010 was 9.5 percent.
2. The department would seek to move staff between divisions wherever possible in order to mitigate the impact on affected areas.
3. See answer 2.
4. No.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 09

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Acting Arrangements and Timeframes for Resolving Acting Positions

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ian Macdonald asked:

The currently available DAFF Organisation Chart indicates there are a number of executive or management staff in 'acting' roles.

1. How long have these been 'acting' roles?
2. For what reason are they 'acting' roles?
3. What is the schedule on the appointment of permanent staff in these roles (or other measure where appropriate)?

Answer:

Please refer to response to CSD 01.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 10

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: International Travel Undertaken by DAFF Officials

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. What has been the total cost of international travel for DAFF personnel this financial year?
2. How does this compare to previous years?
3. Why has there been a decrease/increase?

Answer:

1. The total cost of international travel for DAFF personnel from 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010 has been \$3 584 662.
2. For the previous two financial years, total cost of international travel for DAFF personnel was approximately 50 per cent more than 2009 -2010 to 31 May 2010.
3. The decrease in 2009-10 to 31 May 2010 is a result of changed priorities across several areas of the department.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 11

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: Occupational Health and Safety

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

Question

1. How many reported workplace injuries have occurred over the past financial year?
2. How does this compare with previous years?
3. Which agencies/units have had the most reports?
4. How many cases of workplace compensation for injury or illness have occurred this year?
5. What was the level of total compensation?
6. Are there any ongoing cases?

Answer:

1. 405
2. 378 workplace injuries occurred in 2008/09
469 workplace injuries occurred in 2007/08
3. The regional operational areas of the department have had the most reports.
4. 131 claims for compensation have been submitted from 1 July 2009 to 9 June 2010.
5. Of the 131 claims for compensation submitted from 1 July 2009 until 9 June 2010, 104 have been accepted with a total cost to date of \$550,192.
6. Yes – all cases remain open until there are no further costs associated with the compensation claim even though employees have returned to work on full duties.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 12

Division/Agency: Corporate Services Division

Topic: List of discretionary grants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants in the 2009-2010 Budget?
2. Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
3. Can DAFF please provide a list of discretionary grants recommended by DAFF which were not approved by the Minister?
4. Can DAFF please provide a list of discretionary grants not recommended by DAFF but approved by the Minister?

Answer:

1. Information on individual grants awarded by the department since 1 January 2009 is available at www.daff.gov.au under reporting obligations.
2. The information on the above web page includes the name of the recipient, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
3. In 2009-2010, the department had one recommended discretionary grant (under the Community Networks and Capacity Building Grants Program, for Oil Mallee Association of Western Australia) that was not approved by the minister.
4. There were no discretionary grants not recommended by DAFF but approved by the minister in 2009-2010.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CSD 13

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Buildings - energy efficiency

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please list every building occupied by the Department.

For each building:

1. Has an energy efficiency audit been undertaken? If so, what rating was achieved and what action has been taken to improve energy efficiency as a result of any audit undertaken?

Answer

A list of buildings occupied by DAFF is **attached**.

1. No, an energy efficiency audit has not been undertaken on any sites within the DAFF property portfolio. A National Australian Built Environment Rating System tenancy assessment is currently in progress for the 18 Marcus Clarke Street and 7 London Circuit Canberra buildings. Energy audits are planned for the SA Regional Office, Adelaide, and Cairns District Office.

[Attachment to CSD 13]