

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2013

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 170

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Disaster Recovery and Relief

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator MACDONALD asked:

Has the department maintained a register of the LGAs who have received assistance in rural areas?

Answer:

The Attorney-General's Department is responsible for the administration of disaster relief and recovery arrangements. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry participates in the Australian Government Crisis Committee and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee contributing to a coordinated whole of government crisis response and recovery effort in the aftermath of a disaster.

Information on assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment can be obtained through www.disasterassist.gov.au or by contacting disasterassist@ag.gov.au.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2013
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 171

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Disaster Recovery and Relief

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator MACDONALD asked:

Has the department maintained a register of the producers who have received assistance in rural areas?

Answer:

The Attorney-General's Department is responsible for the administration of disaster relief and recovery arrangements. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry participates in the Australian Government Crisis Committee and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee contributing to a coordinated whole of government crisis response and recovery effort in the aftermath of a disaster.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2013

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 172

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Disaster Recovery and Relief

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator MACDONALD asked:

Does the department have information regarding the number of rural and farm businesses that have received NDRRA and/or AGDRP funding assistance?

Answer:

The Attorney-General's Department is responsible for the administration of disaster relief and recovery arrangements. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry participates in the Australian Government Crisis Committee and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee contributing to a coordinated whole of government crisis response and recovery effort in the aftermath of a disaster.

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Question: 173

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Event management

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator **MACDONALD** asked:

1. How many events were conducted by the department in 2011/12?
2. What was the total cost (outsourced or otherwise) of these events?
3. How many Departmental person-hours were dedicated to these events?
4. How many Departmental person-hours have been dedicated to the events stage in 2012/13?
5. Is the cost (opportunity-cost) to the Department of these hours built into the \$867,285.70 (or \$66,714.23/event) figure provided at last estimates or does that figure only relate to subcontractors?

Answer:

1. The number of events conducted by the department in 2011–12 was 16.
2. Total cost of these events was \$867 285.70, as detailed in response to Question on Notice 164 (Estimates February 2013).
3. As the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry does not have an events management division, event management conducted internally is absorbed within existing roles. Some events are outsourced.
4. Please refer to the answer to question three.
5. No, event management conducted internally is absorbed within existing roles. This figure relates only to the engagement of external suppliers.

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Question: 174

Division/Agency: Governance Division
Topic: Communications and Advertising
Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

Why is 67% of communications and advertising expenditure on climate change (carbon farming futures) and only 9% spent on agricultural productivity?

Answer:

Question on Notice 180 (Governance Division) from the 2013 May Budget Estimates lists communications and advertising expenditure according to each program and departmental division. The work of both the Climate Change division and Agricultural Productivity divisions, and related communication activities, contribute to a more sustainable, productive, internationally competitive and profitable Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries.

To achieve this, under the Carbon Farming Futures and Carbon Farming Initiative Communication programs (delivered by the Climate Change division), administered funds have been specifically dedicated to deliver clear, consistent and current information to help farmers and land managers to reduce emissions and respond to climate risks and opportunities. In addition, communication activities in this division also supported the Australia's Farming Future package and the work of the National Rural Advisory Council.

For the Agricultural Productivity division, communications and advertising expenditure included supporting a major policy initiative, the National Food Plan, as well as the Rural Research and Development Policy Statement.

In addition, for both the Climate Change and Agricultural Productivity divisions, the department also undertook a range of free and low cost communication activities including proactive media, online communication, social media and organisational media (newsletters).

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Question: 175

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Border Security TV program

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

1. What involvement does DAFF have with the Border Security television program?
2. Does anyone from the government get involved with post production editing or comments on Border Security before it goes to air?
3. What is the relationship with Channel Seven regarding access to inspection staff? Is there any payment for access?

Answer:

1. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) provides Channel Seven with access to DAFF operations at international airports and international mail centres as well as the cargo environment. DAFF has final approval on all stories involving DAFF and its officers.
2. Yes. DAFF provides suggested text and editing changes to Channel Seven. DAFF has final approval on all filming, voice-over, and promotions of stories/segments that involve DAFF activities and DAFF staff before going to air.
3. Channel Seven must seek approval from DAFF before filming in any operational area including with inspection staff. Access is only provided if it does not interfere with operations and staff consent to take part. There is no payment for access.

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Question: 176

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Media monitoring

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office in the 2009/10 financial year?
2. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
3. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department and its agencies in the 2009/10 financial year?

Answer:

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

1. Media monitoring clips and summary reports are provided daily to departmental officers and as part of that service, clips are distributed electronically to the minister and parliamentary secretary's offices at no additional cost. Total cost for the 2009–10 financial year was \$283 127 (inc GST).
2. Media Monitors Australia Pty Limited (now known as iSentia) provided these services.
3. Please refer to the answer to part 1.

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA)

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Total cost of media monitoring services for the 2009–10 financial year was \$25 530.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Total cost of media monitoring services for the 2009–10 financial year was \$25 391.

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Question: 176 (continued)

Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC)

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Total cost of media monitoring services for the 2009–10 financial year was \$32 683.79

Grape Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC)

4. N/A
5. N/A
6. Nil

Wine Australia

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Nil

Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC)

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Nil

Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC)

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Total cost of media monitoring services for the 2009–10 financial year was \$149 000.

Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC)

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Total cost for media monitoring services for the 2009–10 financial year was \$1800.

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Total cost of media monitoring services for the 2009–10 financial year was \$21 624.94.

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Question: 177

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Electoral Reports

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

1. Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website? If not, why not? If so, when? What data will be included?
2. Has the Department been asked to prepare electorate level reports for the Government Ministers for the 2013 election? What data is included in these reports? How often is this updated? Why is this material not publicly available? Please provide a copy of latest reports.
3. Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants scheme since November 2007?

Answer:

1. There are no plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) website as DAFF does not collect this information.
2. No.
3. DAFF does not use electoral specific data when administering grant schemes. To meet the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines, DAFF is required to advise the minister or parliamentary secretary if a recommended application falls within their electorates.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 178

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Advertising and Marketing

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

1. How much has the Department and portfolio agencies spent on advertising and marketing since Budget Estimates? Please justify this expenditure.
2. Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts? Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.
3. What communications programs have the Department and portfolio agencies undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken? For each program, what is the total spend?
4. Does the department have any planned budget expenditure for promotion between now and the election? Given the Food plan announcements on the weekend will there be any promotion related to this?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

1. Advertising spend includes expenditure on non-campaign and recruitment advertising. The department has not conducted any campaign advertising in this period.

The spend on advertising from 1 May 2012 to 30 April 2013 is approximately \$301 587.04 (inc GST).

Of this, approximately \$212 314.26 was spent on non-campaign advertising and approximately \$89 272.78 was spent on recruitment advertising, managed by the HR branch of the department.

The department's paid advertising for non-campaign and business as usual communication is purchased through the appointed master media agency (AdCorp) under the Australian Government centrally coordinated procurement arrangements. Non-campaign advertising includes advertisements to promote tenders, grant rounds, information sessions and operational information.

2. All contracts let by DAFF with a value of \$10 000 or more are published on the Australian Government business opportunities website, AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au).
3. The Department does not have any official advertising campaigns. The Department follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.

Question: 178 (continued)

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4. No. The Department does not have any planned budget expenditure for promotion between now and the election but will continue to implement the Government's policies and priorities.

The National Food Plan (NFP), launched on 25 May 2013, is a whole-of government initiative. DAFF will book non-campaign advertising for items such as Expressions of Interest for the Australian Council of Food.

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA)

1. Nil
2. N/A
3. APVMA does not have any official advertising campaigns. The Authority follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.
4. N/A

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

1. \$4813.75 (exc GST) has been spent on advertising since Budget Estimates. The expenditure was required to comply with legislative requirement for consultation and public service guidelines on advertising vacancies.
2. No advertising or marketing contracts have been entered into since the last senate estimates.
3. AFMA does not have any official advertising campaigns. The Authority follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.
4. AFMA has no promotional activities planned for between now and the election.

Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC)

1. \$170.00 has been spent on advertising (white pages) since May 2012.
2. N/A

Question: 178 (continued)

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3. FRDC does not have any official advertising campaigns. FRDC follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.

4. N/A

Grape Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC)

1. Nil

2. N/A

3. GWRDC does not have any official advertising campaigns. GWRDC follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.

4. N/A

Wine Australia

1. Nil

2. N/A

3. Wine Australia does not have any official advertising campaigns. Wine Australia follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.

4. N/A

Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC)

1. Nil

2. N/A

3. CRDC does not have any official advertising campaigns. CRDC follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.

4. N/A

Question: 178 (continued)

Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC)

1. \$11 748.42 has been spent on advertising for job recruitment and expressions of interest.

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2. N/A

3. GRDC does not have any official advertising campaigns. GRDC follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.

4. N/A

Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC)

1. \$4735.82 (exc GST) has been spent on advertising, for the period of May 2012 through to 30 April 2013.

2. N/A

3. SRDC does not have any official advertising campaigns. SRDC follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.

4. N/A

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)

1. \$28 068 has been spent on advertising since the May 2012 Budget Estimates. No money was spent on marketing. Nothing has been spent on advertising since the May 2013 Budget Estimates. The advertising was undertaken to publicly and widely advise that research proposals were being sought and that the Horizon Scholarship was accepting applications.

2. N/A

3. RIRDC does not have any official advertising campaigns. RIRDC follows the definition of campaigns as set out in the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)*.

4. N/A

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Question: 179

Division/Agency: Governance Division

Topic: Disaster Recovery and Relief

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator MACDONALD asked:

In answer to Additional Estimates February 2013 Question on Notice 165 (proof Hansard p.31) regarding disaster recovery and relief, the department has indicated that it provides information regarding pre-impact conditions.

The department has also indicated a range of disaster relief measures that are available to levy-payers who have been impacted by fires and floods.

1. Has the department maintained a register of the LGAs who have received assistance in rural areas? Which LGAs have received assistance?
2. Has the department maintained a register of the primary producers who have received assistance in rural areas?
3. Can the Department advise the number of rural and farm businesses that have received NDRRA and/or AGDRP funding assistance?
4. What on-going services are being offered by the department to assist primary producers in the financial/productivity recovery following natural disasters?
5. Can the Department advise how many small business operators in rural and remote areas have received assistance under the same relief package?

Answer:

The Attorney-General's Department is responsible for the administration of disaster relief and recovery arrangements. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry participates in the Australian Government Crisis Committee and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee contributing to a coordinated whole of government crisis response and recovery effort in the aftermath of a disaster.

Information on assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment can be obtained through www.disasterassist.gov.au or by contacting disasterassist@ag.gov.au.

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Question: 179 (continued)

1. Please refer to Question on Notice (QoN) 170 (Governance Division) from the Budget Estimates hearing in May 2013
2. Please refer to QoN 171 (Governance Division) from the Budget Estimates hearing in May 2013
3. Please refer to QoN 172 (Governance Division) from the Budget Estimates hearing in May 2013
4. Please refer to QoN 124 (Climate Change Division) from the Budget Estimates hearing in May 2013