

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question No.:** CORP 01

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Role of Parliamentary Secretary

**Hansard Page:** 6 (20/10/09)

**Senator Ian Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD** - You are quite right, Minister, but there was not a minister for Western Australia either. In this government there is a parliamentary secretary for Western Australia, there is one for Northern Australia, which includes the Northern Territory and Northern Queensland, but there is not one for Queensland. So why is Western Australia preferred over Queensland?

**Senator Conroy**—I will take that on notice.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—And also for New South Wales.

**Answer:**

The Prime Minister's media release of 6 June 2009 – Changes to the Ministry indicated that

“The Hon Gary Gray AO MP has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Western and Northern Australia. Mr Gray's extensive knowledge of the West and the Northern Territory, and its particular challenges for the future in terms of resource, land and infrastructure management and development make him ideally positioned to take on this role.”

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**Question No.:** CORP 02

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Role of Parliamentary Secretary

**Hansard Page:** 6 (20/10/09)

**Senator Ian Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD** - If you want to stand on the precision of the law, let me then just ask: what exactly does Mr Gray do in relation to Western Australia that all of the lower house members and senators for Western Australia and the other ministers from the west – I think that there are some - do not do? What is Mr Gray going to do that others do not?

**Senator Conroy**—I will take that on notice to see if there is anything further to the information you have been given already that Mr Albanese is willing and able to advise you on.

**Answer:**

Refer to CORP 01.

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**Question No.:** CORP 03

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Hansard Page:** 13 (20/10/09)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Mr Mrdak, how much has the department spent on consultancy services since November 2007? Can you provide a complete list of current consultancy services? Is that possible to do?

**Mr Mrdak**—Yes, certainly. If you can bear with me, I will take that on notice and try and get that to you as soon as possible. That is all consultancies since November 2007 and current consultancy contracts underway?

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Yes, and for each consultancy could you indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. Also, for each consultancy, please indicate why the department's agencies could not have undertaken that work by themselves, so why did you need consultants rather than doing it internally?

**Mr Mrdak**—Certainly, Senator. We draw a lot of that from the Senate order and the publication on AusTender; we will pull that together for you.

**Answer:**

This information is available on the AusTender website.

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**Question No.:** CORP 04

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Departmental expenditure on marketing and advertising

**Hansard Page:** 14 (20/10/09)

**Senator Ian Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—My next question is how much the department has spent on advertising and marketing since November 2007 and what the justification is. Again, I think that might be the Senate order.

**Mr Mrdak**—We do publish those and I will get that information for you.

**Answer:**

Advertising (excluding recruitment and public notice advertising)

In 2007-08 the Department spent \$260,946 for paid advertisements promoting the use and availability of the Green Vehicle Guide. In 2008-09 paid advertising expenditure was nil.

Marketing

In 2007-08 expenditure on marketing campaigns was nil. In 2008-09 the Department spent \$383,917 on public relations and graphic design services to inform the community about the liquids aerosols and gels advanced screening technology trials.

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**Question No.:** CORP 05

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Discretionary Grants

**Hansard Page:** 14 (20/10/09)

**Senator Ian Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—If you could also provide a list of discretionary grants that have been made in that period. Again, I think most of these are part of the Senate order.

**Mr Mrdak**—They are, Senator.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—And the commission reports as well?

**Mr Mrdak**—I will check the Senate order and if there anything that is not captured there, Senator, I will get that to you through the committee.

**Answer:**

Please refer to CORP 12.

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**Question No.:** CORP 06

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Infrastructure Australia - Accommodation Costs

**Hansard Page:** 18 (20/10/09)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—Indeed, they just came out of my mouth. Exactly what is the cost per square metre that is being paid for this location?

**Mr Deegan**—I will take that on notice, Senator.

**Senator NASH**—Do you have a ballpark figure of roughly how much above the average that is?

**Mr Deegan**—I will take that on notice, just in terms of accuracy.

**Answer:**

The cost per square metre is \$1,299.

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**Question No.:** CORP 07

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Infrastructure Australia - Accommodation

**Hansard Page:** 22 (20/10/09)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—We were just on the issue of the cost of floor space for the building that you are in. I appreciate that you may have to take this on notice—I want that to be very clear—but did the department undertake to determine what would be an average cost of floor space for a similar type of accommodation for Infrastructure Australia and the Major Cities Unit before they decided to go ahead with the location that you are currently in?

**Mr Mrdak**—That is probably one for me. Yes, my understanding is the department did do an analysis. I do not have that here, but I am happy to take that on notice to determine the analysis that was undertaken which led to the department contracting the floor space which is occupied by Infrastructure Australia.

**Answer:**

The Department undertook a thorough analysis in determining which of the available properties represented the best value for money to the government.

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**Question No.:** CORP 08

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Election Commitments

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Nash asked:**

1. What is the status of each election commitment within the Infrastructure portfolio?
2. Which election commitments are experiencing slippages?
3. Why?
4. Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?
5. What are the implications of each slippage?

**Answer:**

1. The Government is meeting all its election commitments.
2. Nil.
3. N/A.
4. N/A.
5. N/A.



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**Question No.:** CORP 09

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Publishing of Electorate Reports on the Department's website

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Nash asked:**

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

**Answer:**

1. Yes.
2. Program Name, Project Name / Description, Funding, Status, Category of Project, Proponent, and LGA information where applicable.
3. The data used by the electorate level reports is automatically extracted from the relevant program management system.
4. Program information contained in the electorate reports is publicly available from the Department and Economic Stimulus Program websites.
5. All the relevant information is available on the department's website.
6. No.
7. No.
8. N/A.
9. N/A.
10. N/A.

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**Question No.:** CORP 10

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Nash asked:**

1. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since November 2007?
2. How can the department justify this expenditure?
3. Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services?
4. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use.
5. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

**Answer:**

1. Contract details are available on the AusTender website.
2. The primary requirements for the department engaging consultants are:
  - Need for independent research or assessment; or
  - Need for specialised or professional skills; or
  - Skills currently unavailable within agency.
3. 4. & 5. Refer to Q1.

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**Question No.:** CORP 11

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Advertising and Marketing Expenditure

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Nash asked:**

1. How much has the Department spent on advertising and marketing since November 2007?
2. Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts.
3. Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.

**Answer**

1. Advertising (excluding recruitment and public notice advertising)

In 2007-08 the Department spent \$260,946 for paid advertisements promoting the use and availability of the Green Vehicle Guide. In 2008-09 paid advertising expenditure was nil.

Marketing

In 2007-08 expenditure on marketing campaigns was nil. In 2008-09 the Department spent \$383,917 on public relations and graphic design services to inform the community about the liquids aerosols and gels advanced screening technology trials.

2. No contracts are held by the Department for advertising. No contracts are held by the Department for marketing services.
3. N/A.

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**Question No.:** CORP 12

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Discretionary Grants

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Nash asked:**

1. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since November 2007?
2. Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.

**Answer:**

Details of Discretionary grants are published in accordance with Senate Order 192.

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**Question No.:** CORP 13

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Reports commissioned by the Government

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Nash asked:**

1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in Infrastructure since November 2007?
2. Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
3. How much did each report cost?
4. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
5. What is the current status of each report?
6. When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer:**

1. 12.
2. Information concerning reports commissioned by the Government is on the department's website.
3. Reports were funded from within existing departmental resources.
4. Preparation of these reports was conducted by existing departmental staff.
5. Completed reports are available on the department's website following release by government.
6. Responses are available on the department's website, as appropriate.