

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 378

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi Costs

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How much did each Department/Agency spend on taxis from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for Taxi costs?

Answer:

1. For the period 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014, total departmental expense on taxis was \$36,846 (GST excl). The Department does not record taxi expense data in a way that would readily allow individual business groups to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
2. The use of taxis is assessed on a needs basis and is subject to the same value for money considerations as all other travel undertaken by departmental staff.