

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 133

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Corporate

Programme: Corporate

Topic: Portfolio Wide – hospitality and entertainment

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 27 November 2013

Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for all events including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
5. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
6. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
7. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
9. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?

1. The Department of the Environment (the Department) spent \$33,719.23 on hospitality for 1 May 2012 to 31 October 2013. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
7/05/2013	Outback Spectacular Restaurant, Gold Coast, QLD	Reception dinner for the Pacific Island Country, South East Asia and Pacific, and South Asia ozone officers meeting.	\$6,572.00
8-9/05/2013	Cape Tribulation, QLD	Eastern Kuku Yalanji Indigenous Protected Area declaration ceremony.	\$2,137.00
10/05/2013	Ngunya Jargoona IPA, near Ballina, NSW	Ngunya Jargoona Indigenous Protected Area declaration ceremony.	\$1,650.00
10/05/2013	Ottoman Cuisine, Barton, ACT	Official dinner for the 3rd Australian-China high level Water Policy meeting.	\$1,923.00
24/05/2013	Rydges South Bank, Brisbane, QLD	The Department, together with the International Whaling Commission (IWC), hosted the Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans in Brisbane on 24 May 2013. Approximately 50 international and domestic stakeholders were in attendance at the workshop.	\$3,996.00
25/05/2013	Il Lido Waterfront, Darwin, NT	Welcome to VIPs of the World Indigenous Network Conference.	\$1,770.00
26/05/2013	Pony Dining, Brisbane, QLD	The Department, together with the IWC, hosted the Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans in Brisbane on 26 May 2013. Approximately 30 international and domestic stakeholders were in attendance at the workshop.	\$1,861.95
8/06/2013	Mungalla Station, near Ingham, QLD	Girringun Indigenous Protected Area declaration.	\$3,465.00

15/07/2013	Bremerhaven, Germany	Meeting between Australian and Chinese Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) officials to seek support for the East Antarctic Rep system of Marine Protected Areas proposal and discuss other boarder Antarctic cooperation matters.	\$171.20
23/07/2013	Pony Dining, Brisbane, QLD	The Department hosted a networking event for its Papua New Guinea (PNG) partners and other Australian Government agencies responsible for administering the Kokoda Initiative.	\$1,662.46
18/09/2013	Dynasty Restaurant, Port Moresby, PNG	The Department hosted a networking event for its PNG partners and other Australian agencies responsible for administering the Kokoda Initiative with the aim of building and maintaining stakeholder relationships.	\$514.82
27/09/2013	Bicicletta, Canberra, ACT	Dr Nick Gales and Dr Tony Fleming hosted a meeting with Professor Will Steffen to discuss climate change aspects of Antarctic science program.	\$74.60
28/10/2013	Macquarie Wharf No. 2, Hobart, TAS	Reception hosted by the Australian Antarctic Division for delegates to the annual meeting of the CCAMLR.	\$6,837.60
21/10/2013	The Beach Restaurant, Blackmans Bay, TAS	Meeting between proponents of the East Antarctic Representative System of Marine Protected Areas proposal in advance of the annual meeting of the CCAMLR.	\$95.60
22/10/2013	Smolt Restaurant, Hobart, TAS	Dinner meeting with Council of Managers of National Antarctic Program Executive Secretary and a representative of the Southern Ocean Observing System.	\$231.70
27/10/2013	Smolt Restaurant, Hobart, TAS	Meeting between Australian and French Officials to continue ongoing bilateral discussions between Australian and France on cooperative science on the Kergulen Plateau.	\$756.30

In addition to the amounts set out above, the Department spent \$3,268.03 on official hospitality that has not previously been reported:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
14/05/2012	Sydney, NSW	Rio+20 Stakeholder briefing (United Nations Association of Australia).	\$428.28
21/01/2013	Blue Skies Restaurant, Hobart, TAS	Formal dinner to mark the occasion of the Chinese icebreaker Xuelong coming to Hobart.	\$2,366.45
18/04/2013	Customs House Hotel, Hobart, TAS	Bilateral meeting with Scientific Committee and CCAMLR counterparts from New Zealand.	\$473.30

The **Director of National Parks** (DNP) has spent \$3,085.21 on hospitality for the period 1 May to 31 October 2013. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
5/06/2013	Jabiru, NT	New Zealand Delegation of Senior Elders to Kakadu National Park – Dinner.	\$1,000.00
30/07/2013	South Africa	Rock Art Conservation & Tourism South Africa-Australian Exchange Program – Dinner.	\$385.00
29/08/ 2013	Blackmans Bay, TAS	Marine Reserves Management Thank you Lunch with Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia.	\$124.91
30/08/2013	Hobart, TAS	Parks Australia Forum 2013 Divisional Planning – Dinner.	\$1,430.00
4/09/2013	Parkes, ACT	Visiting Korean Delegates Meeting – Morning Tea.	\$110.00
29/10/2013	Canberra City, ACT	Meeting with Chair of DNP Audit Committee – Lunch.	\$35.30

The **Bureau of Meteorology** (the Bureau) spent \$800.50 on hospitality for 1 May 2012 to 31 October 2013. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
10/07/2013	Canberra, ACT	Dinner relating to Water Information Research and Development Alliance.	\$800.50

The **Murray-Darling Basin Authority** (MDBA) spent \$1,596.00 on hospitality for 1 May 2012 to 31 October 2013. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
17/09/2013	Diggers on the Darling, Bourke, NSW	Bourke Development Committee and Northern Basin Advisory Committee – Dinner.	\$1,596.00

The **National Water Commission** (NWC) spent \$5,262.27 on hospitality for 1 May 2012 to 31 October 2013. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
1/05/2013	Tullamarine, VIC	Interception Forum.	\$1,994.10
5/06/2013	Darwin, NT	Commission meeting dinner with key NT water stakeholders.	\$1,169.51
25/07/2013	Canberra, ACT	Commission meeting dinner with stakeholders.	\$708.00
17/09/2013	Albury, NSW	Workshop with stakeholders for Triennial Assessment of National Water Initiative outcomes.	\$468.00
17/09/2013	Albury, NSW	Commission meeting dinner with stakeholders.	\$785.61

In addition to the amounts set out above, the NWC spent \$3,268.03 on official hospitality that has not previously been reported:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
17/04/2013	Adelaide, SA	Introductory lunch with new Parliamentary Secretary	\$137.05

The **Sydney Harbour Federation Trust** (the Trust) spent \$2,931.50 on hospitality for 1 May 2012 to 31 October 2013. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
21/09/2013	Cockatoo Island, Sydney, NSW	Catering for Volunteer Event	\$2,931.50

The **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority** (GBRMPA) had nil expenditure on hospitality for 1 May 2012 to 31 October 2013.

2. For the **Minister and Parliamentary Secretary**, the Department spent \$1,425.50 on hospitality between 7 September 2013 and 31 October 2013. Details of date, location, purpose and cost of all events are listed below.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
21/10/2013	Moree Service Club, Moree, NSW	Senator Birmingham met key external stakeholders representing irrigators, local government, indigenous and environmental groups and to hear views on Basin water management and current infrastructure projects funded by the Commonwealth.	\$120.20
22/10/2013	Balonne Shire Council/St George RSL, St George, QLD	Senator Birmingham met key external stakeholders representing irrigators, local government, indigenous and environmental groups and to hear views on Basin water management and current infrastructure projects funded by the Commonwealth.	\$170.00
22/10/2013	Goondiwindi Training and Tech Centre, QLD	Senator Birmingham met key external stakeholders representing irrigators, local government, indigenous and environmental groups and to hear views on Basin water management and current infrastructure projects funded by the Commonwealth.	\$305.00
22/10/2013	The Town House Restaurant, Goondiwindi, QLD	Senator Birmingham met key external stakeholders representing irrigators, local government, indigenous and environmental groups and to hear views on Basin water management and current infrastructure projects funded by the Commonwealth.	\$704.80
23/10/2013	Narromine USMC Club, Narromine, NSW	Senator Birmingham met key external stakeholders representing irrigators, local government, indigenous and environmental groups and to hear views on Basin water management and current infrastructure projects funded by the Commonwealth.	\$152.50

3. Departmental official hospitality would include any entertainment expenses and any such amounts could not be separately identified. It should however be noted that the department generally does not provide entertainment as part of its official hospitality any such expenditure would be extremely rare. No portfolio agencies have reported any additional entertainment expenses for the period to 31 October 2013.

4. According to Departmental records, there has been no expenditure on entertainment for the offices of **the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary** for the period 7 September 2013 to 31 October 2013 – in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

5. Please see (below) the **planned hospitality spend for the Department and portfolio agencies** for the period from 31 October 2013. Details of date, location, purpose, and estimated cost are provided.

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
6/11/2013	Canberra, ACT	Meeting regarding urban water planning engagement.	\$14.40
14/11/2013	Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT	Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) 40 the Anniversary Celebration Event	\$1,335.00
24 /11/2013	Wellesley Island Indigenous Protected Area, QLD	Wellesley Island Indigenous Protected Area dedication ceremony – food and soft drink catering at dedication site.	*\$4,898.30
16/12/2013	TBC, Hobart, Tasmania	Visit by cetacean researchers - welcome dinner to greet visiting researchers.	\$720.00
20/12/2013	TBC, Hobart, Tasmania	Visit by cetacean researchers - farewell dinner to greet visiting researchers.	\$720.00
March 2014	Brisbane, Australia	Kokoda Initiative bilateral planning – dinner for staff from Papua New Guinean and Australian stakeholders.	\$1,800.00
May 2014	Port Moresby, PNG	Kokoda Initiative dinner – Senior PNG and Australian government executives during visit to Port Moresby for planning, networking and relationship building	\$1,000.00

*Please note – As a result of recent Machinery of Government changes this activity transferred to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The **NWC** has the following planned official hospitality:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
Three Commission meetings are planned, however details are not yet finalised.			

The **GBRMPA** has budgeted \$6,000.00 for hospitality for the 2013/14 financial year, of which none has yet been expended.

The Bureau, the DNP, the MDBA, and the Trust have no planned hospitality expenditure for the period from 31 October 2013.

6. According to records of the Department there is no planned hospitality spend for the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary for the period from 31 October 2013 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

7. No entertainment is being planned by the Department.

8. According to records of the Department there is no planned entertainment spend for the offices of the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for the period from 31 October 2013 in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

9. The Department and Agencies tightly manage expenditure on official hospitality and allocates resources to areas of highest priority only. Given the annual process for allocation and management of budgets across the portfolio and the minimal expenditure in this area it is not possible to estimate future savings across the forward estimates