

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

Question No: 134

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Corporate

Programme: Corporate Strategies Division

Topic: Portfolio Wide – Public Service Efficiencies – Business Flights

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 27 November 2013

Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Has there been a reduction in business flights?
2. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

Department of the Environment (the Department)

1. Yes. There has been a general reduction in business class travel as the department has introduced the broad practice of SES officers most often travelling economy class on shorter routes, for example, Canberra-Melbourne.
2. The Department does not maintain forward estimates at an individual account code level that would allow the savings against forward estimates to be quantified specifically.

Director of National Parks (DNP)

1. Yes. There has been a general reduction in business class travel as the DNP has introduced the broad practice of SES officers most often travelling economy class on shorter routes, for example, Canberra-Melbourne.
2. DNP does not maintain forward estimates at an individual account code level that would allow the savings against forward estimates to be quantified specifically.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)

1. No. Only a minimal number of flights are undertaken on the applicable shorter domestic routes (Canberra to/from Sydney and Melbourne).
2. GBRMPA does not maintain forward estimates at an individual account code level that would allow the savings against forward estimates to be quantified specifically.

National Water Commission (the Commission)

1. Yes. Over the past two and a half financial years, expenditure on business flights has dropped as per the table below:

Business Class	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14 to 31 Oct 13
Domestic	\$ 400,189	\$ 174,166	\$ 54,089
International	\$ 44,501	\$ 10,714	\$ -
Total (GST excl)	\$ 444,690	\$ 184,880	\$ 54,089

2. As the Commission's work program for each year over the forward estimates has not yet been determined, it is not possible to quantify estimated savings over this period.

Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau)

1. Yes.
2. Estimated saving for 2013–14 is \$143,526 (GST inclusive).

Business Class*	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14 to 10 Dec 13	Estimated 2013-14	% Estimated reduction from FY 2012-13
International	\$ 493,266	\$ 184,966	\$ 414,188	16.03
Domestic	\$ 181,051	\$ 52,072	\$ 116,603	35.60
Total Cost	\$ 674,317	\$ 237,038	\$ 530,791	21.28

**Figures for Business Class travel are provided by our Travel Management Company*

3. We estimate savings will be achieved over the forward estimates period, but are unable to quantify at this point.

Murray Darling Basin Authority (the Authority)

1. Yes.
2. The Authority does not maintain forward departmental estimates at an individual account code level that would allow savings against the forward estimates to be quantified specifically.

Clean Energy Regulator (CER)

1. No.
2. The estimated savings over the forward estimates cannot be quantified at this time.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust)

1. The Trust's holders of public office and SES have always travelled economy class on domestic routes.
2. This practice will continue into the future and therefore estimated savings will continue in the forward estimates.

Climate Change Authority (The Authority)

1. To minimise costs, the Authority has teleconference and videoconference facilities at its office. Where air travel is necessary, officers use the Best Fare of the Day for international travel and travel economy using Lowest Practical Fare for domestic travel. Authority Members on official business travel in accordance with Official Travel by Officer Holders. This does not preclude Authority Members travelling economy class if they choose.
2. As a new agency established on 1 July 2012, it is difficult to reliably estimate reductions or savings over the forward estimates period.