

We have received a further Question of Notice from Senator Thorpe as follows:

- 1. Regarding the AWEPP program, what is the estimated cost of all consultations and meetings that have occurred in relation to this program? Can you please provide a breakdown of departmental costs, and total amount remunerated to First Nations participants and reimbursement for travel costs.***

First Nations Water Branch response:

The First Nations Water Branch within DCCEEW is leading the AWEPP program. The consultations across various locations include Dubbo, NSW 27th and 28th July 2023; Albury, NSW 31st July – 1st August 2023; Toowoomba, QLD 7th and 8th August 2023, and Renmark, SA 15th and 16th August 2023. Further to this a virtual gathering was held for delegates unable to attend the gatherings on

The expenditure breakdown:

	ALBURY	DUBBO	RENMARK	TOOWOOMBA
Travel	\$2,457.7	\$1,945.77	\$4,810.89	-
Accommodation	\$4,432.22	\$5,304.6	\$5,048.38	\$12,342
Gatherings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catering• Venue	\$4,248	\$5752	\$3,365	\$5,790
Gathering Dinner	\$697.70	\$368.50	\$650.00	\$927.78
Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony	\$350	\$244.32	\$800	\$700
Remuneration: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sitting Fees	\$7000	\$3850	\$8,400	\$13,679.72
Other costs (reimbursements)				\$379.72 (Air fare reimbursement)
TOTAL COST	19,185.62	17465.19	23,074.27	33,819.22

Total: \$93,544.30

Facilitator: \$90,000

Engagement Team costing: Travel \$10,056.81, Accommodation \$4,45.61 - Total: \$14,513.42

Overall Total: \$193,601.11

Please note:

- Reimbursement for travel costs were limited as the department facilitated all forms of transport for attendance at the gatherings. Those who undertake travel arrangements were reimbursed accordingly.