

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

Question No: 115
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Director of National Parks (DNP)
Topic: Australian Landscape Trust
Hansard Page: 54
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Leyonhjelm asked:

Senator LEYONHJELM: Do you, as the director, pay any money to the Australian Landscape Trust?

Ms Barnes: I will take that on notice, but I do not think so.

Senator LEYONHJELM: If you would, please. And if you do pay any money to them, how much and for what purpose? Could add that to the questions on notice, please.

Ms Barnes: Certainly.

Answer:

As noted in the Director of National Parks 2013-14 Annual Report (pages 5 and 8) the Director held Calperum & Taylorville station leases near Renmark, South Australia from 1993 and 2000 respectively until June 2014. The properties are managed for conservation purposes consistent with trust arrangements established when they were acquired with funds contributed by the Australian Government. Both properties were managed by the Australian Landscape Trust from 1998 through its company Austland Services Pty Ltd.

The transfer of the leases to Austland Services on 2 June 2014 finalised a three year transition from the Director to Austland Services which is now fully responsible for management of the properties in accordance with the conservation trust arrangements.

During the period the Director held the properties the annual operating costs were approximately \$500,000 annually. Payments to Austland Services in 2014-15, for expenses incurred in the 2013-14 financial year, total \$16,593.92 for repairs and maintenance. A further payment of \$18,845.04 will be made in relation to pastoral lease rents.