

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

Question No: 303
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: Machinery of Government costs for water responsibilities
Hansard Page: 36-37
Question Date: 04 March 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Dr de Brouwer: In the machinery-of-government changes in September or October last year all the responsibility for the Water Act—except part 6, which relates to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder—was transferred over to the newly termed Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. That is now Minister Joyce's portfolio.

Senator SINGH: What was the final total cost of that transition?

Dr de Brouwer: What you mean? The machinery of government and the costs of—

Senator SINGH: The cost of transferring the water portfolio over to the agriculture department.

Dr de Brouwer: I will take that on notice. If you are asking about the administrative costs to us—

Senator SINGH: I guess a breakdown would be good. You could start with administrative—

Dr de Brouwer: The machinery-of-government changes happen and there is a process around that. We will try to see whether we can get what the cost of that process is.

Answer:

\$102,957.70 excluding GST. This includes costs associated with data transfer (including records, emails, shared drives), provisioning of external access for Department of Agriculture and Water Resources staff to the Department of the Environment network and changes required to the Department's financial system.