

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

Question No: 202
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Portfolio wide – hire cars
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.

a) What are the reasons for hire car costs?

Answer:

Department of the Environment (the Department)

The Department spent a total of \$47,286 on car hire from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 (GST inclusive).

| Business Group | Amount \$ |
|---|------------------|
| Australian Antarctic Division | 14,349 |
| Biodiversity Conservation Division | 2,258 |
| Commonwealth Environmental Water Office | 5,342 |
| Corporate Strategies Division | 809 |
| Environment Quality Division | 781 |
| Environmental Assessment and Compliance | 4,783 |
| Executive Division | 0 |
| Office of Water Science | 0 |
| Parks Australia | 7,769 |
| Policy and Communications Division | 515 |
| Supervising Scientist Division | 1,087 |
| Sustainability Policy and Analysis Division | 478 |
| Water Efficiency Division | 2,400 |
| Water Reform Division | 4,630 |
| Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division | 1,985 |
| Total | 47,186 |

a) Hire cars are used for official business purposes where taxis and public transport are not cost effective or unable to meet business requirements.

Director of National Parks (DNP)

The total spent on hire cars from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$8,765.96 (GST inclusive).

| Business group | Amount \$ |
|--|------------------|
| DNP Executive | 0 |
| Parks & Biodiversity Science Branch | 842 |
| Parks Business and Policy Branch | 2,033 |
| Parks Operation & Strategic Partnership Branch | 3,149 |
| Commonwealth Marine Reserves Branch | 2,741 |
| Total | 8,765 |

a) All hire car costs incurred are for official agency business, when cost effective to do so.

Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau)

Total expenditure for the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$53,014 (GST inclusive).

| Division | Amount \$ |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Climate and Water | 760 |
| Corporate | 5,595 |
| Research and Systems* | 42,281 |
| Weather Services | 4,378 |
| Total | 53,014 |

* Research and Systems consists of the following Business areas:

- Observations and Engineering (Infrastructure);
- Information Technologies (Information Systems and Services); and
- Ionospheric Prediction Service.

a) All hire cars are used for essential operations for official Bureau of Meteorology business. The Bureau has equipment at well over 1,000 field sites across the country and staff located at 60 locations. Technical staff travel to regional, rural, remote and very remote locations to conduct regular maintenance and repairs on essential equipment.

Climate Change Authority (the Authority)

Total expenditure for the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$96 (GST inclusive).

| Business Group | Amount \$ |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Authority Staff | 96 |
| Total | 96 |

a) All hire cars incurred are for official Authority business, when cost effective to do so.

Clean Energy Regulator (the Regulator)

Total expenditure for the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$4,198 (GST inclusive).

| Division | Expenditure \$ (GST inclusive) |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Renewables and Carbon Farming | 2,120 |
| Reporting and Carbon Market | 2,078 |
| Total | 4,198 |

a) Hire cars were used by various Clean Energy Regulator staff to conduct official business.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority)

Total expenditure for the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$7,455 (GST inclusive).

| Business Group | Amount \$ |
|---|------------------|
| Chairman's Office | 483 |
| Strategic Policy and Reef Stewardship | 1,282 |
| Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use | 1,561 |
| Great Barrier Reef Operations | 4,129 |
| Total | 7,455 |

a) Hire cars are used at destinations where taxi or public transport is not efficient or effective.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority (the Authority)

Total expenditure for hire cars from 1 February to 30 April 2014 was \$12,417.

| Business groups | Amount \$ |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| River Management | 4,633 |
| Environmental Management | 348 |
| Policy and Planning | 2,674 |
| Corporate and Business Services | 4,761 |
| Total | 12,417 |

a) Hire car costs are incurred by the Authority's members, staff and committee members for attending work related meetings, project site visits, and inspections, and similar activities, most of which are in rural and regional areas where hire cars are the most cost effective transport option.

National Water Commission (the Commission)

Total expenditure for hire cars from 1 February to 30 April 2014 was \$198 (GST inclusive).

a) Hire cars are used for business purposes where taxis and public transport are not cost effective or unable to meet business requirements.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust)

a) Nil