

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

Question No: 217
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: Portfolio wide - travel costs departmental
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

Department of the Environment (the Department)

Travel is undertaken to ensure the Australian Government or the Department's domestic and international interests and obligations are met. The table below outlines travel expenditure from 01 February to 30 April 2014 (GST inclusive).

Travel Expense	Amount \$
International Airfares	236,731
International Accommodation & Allowances	85,741
International Other Expenses	37,088
Domestic Airfares	190,854
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	812,013
Domestic Other Expenses	121,188
Total	1,483,615

A more detailed breakdown of travel expenditure is not available as it is not recorded below the above categories within the Department's financial system.

For the rest of this calendar year, 1 May to 30 December 2014, around 30 international trips are scheduled. These trips may, or may not, eventuate. The department is unable to provide an estimate of the number of domestic trips currently planned without an unreasonable diversion of resources. Travel is undertaken to ensure the Australian Government's or the Department's domestic and international interests and obligations are met.

Director of National Parks (the Director)

Travel is undertaken to ensure the Australian Government or the Department's domestic and international interests and obligations are met. The table below outlines travel expenditure from 01 February to 30 April 2014 (GST inclusive).

Travel Expense	Amount \$
International Airfares	13,833
International Accommodation & Allowances	265
International Other Expenses	742
Domestic Airfares	129,995
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	31,081
Domestic Other Expenses	5,272
Total	181,188

A more detailed breakdown of travel expenditure is not available as it is not recorded below the above categories within the Department's financial system.

For the rest of this calendar year, 1 May to 30 December 2014, no international and 153 domestic trips are scheduled. Travel is undertaken to ensure the Australian Government's or the Director's domestic and international interests and obligations are met.

Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau)

Travel Expense	01February to 30 April 2014 (GST Inclusive)
International Airfares**	393,640
International Accommodation & Allowances**	215,756
International Other Expenses	838
Domestic Airfares	562,208
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances**	930,283
Domestic Other Expenses	189,651
Total	2,292,376

*Data sourced from GL Account for the period 1 February to 30 April 2014.

**Note: International Airfares, International Accommodation & Allowances and Domestic Accommodation & Allowances do not incur a GST component.

Domestic and international travel is undertaken to ensure the Australian Government's and the Bureau's operational requirements and Australia's international interests and obligations are met.

The Bureau is unable to provide an estimate of the number of trips currently planned without an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Climate Change Authority (the Authority)

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014.

All domestic airfares were economy class.

Travel Expense	Amount \$
International Airfares	0
International Accommodation & Allowances	0
International Other Expenses	0
Domestic Airfares	12,821
Domestic Accommodation	1,859
Domestic Other (Travel Allowance)	2,801
Total	17,481

There are no current travel plans. Any travel planned for the rest of this financial year will be undertaken to attend engagements relevant to the Authority's work, which requires in-person attendance.

Clean Energy Regulator (the Regulator)

Travel is undertaken by Clean Energy Regulator staff to conduct official business.

The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014.

Travel Expense	Amount \$
International Airfares	5,064
International Accommodation & Allowances	1,635
International Other Expenses	596
Domestic Airfares	56,994
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	39,774
Domestic Other Expenses	0
Total	104,063

Further travel is expected to be undertaken to conduct official business. Travel will be approved on an as needs basis consistent with business requirements.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority)

Travel is undertaken to enable effective management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and ensure that the Australian Government and GBRMPA's domestic and international obligations are met. The table below outlines travel expenditure from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 (GST inclusive).

Travel Expense	Amount \$
International Airfares	33,148
International Accommodation & Allowances	18,124
International Other Expenses	3,211
Domestic Airfares	198,139
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	167,432
Domestic Other Expenses	3,959
Total	424,013

Further travel will occur this calendar year to enable management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, in particular liaison with 13 Local Marine Advisory Committees, as determined by resources available and business requirements.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority (the Authority)

The travel expenditure since 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$204,155 as detailed below:

Travel Expense	Amount
Domestic Airfares	115,484
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	69,911
Domestic Other Expenses	18,760
Total	204,155

The travel was undertaken to progress agency business including the implementation of the Basin Plan, delivery of joint programs and attendance at governance committees.

As at 30 April 2014, there were 59 trips planned for the rest of this calendar year.

The travel is being undertaken to progress agency business including the implementation of the Basin Plan, delivery of joint programs and attendance at governance committees.

National Water Commission (the Commission)

The National Water Commission spent \$72,190 (inc GST) on travel costs during the period 1 February to 30 April 2014 as set out in the following table. Travel is undertaken to promote water reform, for formal Commission meetings, and to enable direct engagement with stakeholders and jurisdictions on the Commission's assessment and audit functions.

Travel Expense	Amount \$
International Airfares	8,785
International Accommodation & Allowances	727
International Other Expenses	0
Domestic Airfares	47,066
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	10,423
Domestic Other Expenses	5,189
Total	72,190

A more detailed breakdown of travel expenditure is not available as it is not recorded below the above categories within the Commission's financial system.

Further travel is expected to be undertaken for business meetings with jurisdictions and stakeholders concerning the Commission's Triennial Assessment of water reform; attendance at seminars and conferences where the Commission is providing speakers; and formal Commission meetings.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust)

The travel expenditure since 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$14,880 as detailed below:

Travel Expense	Amount \$
International Airfares	5,772
International Accommodation & Allowances	5,646
International Other Expenses	0
Domestic Airfares (all economy class)	1,601
Domestic Accommodation & Allowances	1,094
Domestic Other Expenses	767
Total	14,880

Travel is undertaken to ensure the Trust's domestic and international interests and obligations are met.

The international travel was undertaken by staff to see firsthand the management of the volunteer programs of an organisation very similar to that of the Trust. To gain ideas and experience that can be put into practice with the Trust's volunteer program.

No travel is currently planned although other travel may occur during the rest of this calendar year as determined by resources and business requirements.