

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

Question No: 281
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - HIRE CARS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, how much did each department/agency spend on hire cars during the specified period? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.

- a. What are the reasons for hire car costs?
- b. How much did the department spend on hire cars during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

Answer:

Department of the Environment:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was \$74,232 (GST inclusive).

Business Group	Amount \$ (GST inclusive)
Australian Antarctic Division	10,454
Biodiversity Conservation Division	6,204
Climate Change & Renewable Energy Division	223
Commonwealth Environmental Water Office	18,704
Corporate Strategies Division	3,643
Emissions Reduction Fund Division	737
Environment Quality Division	2,492
Environmental Assessment & Compliance Division	7,277
Executive	413
Parks Australia Division	4,354
Policy Analysis & Implementation Division	699
Science Division	8,331
Water Division	3,792
Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division	6,909
Total	74,232

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

b. Nil.

Director of National Parks:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was \$14,064 (GST inclusive).

Business group	Amount \$
DNP Executive	2,825
Parks Islands and Biodiversity Science Branch	1,81
Parks Business and Policy Branch	1,920
Joint Management Branch	5,412
Commonwealth Marine Reserves Branch	2,088
Total	14,064

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

b. Nil.

Bureau of Meteorology:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was \$81,754 (GST inclusive).

Business group	Amount \$
Environment & Research	18,402
Corporate Services	5,617
Information Systems & Services	150
Hazards, Warnings & Forecasts	21,482
Observations & Infrastructure	36,103
Total	81,754

a. All hire cars are used for essential operations for official Bureau business. The Bureau has equipment at well over 1000 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.

b. Nil.

Clean Energy Regulator:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was \$5,363 (GST inclusive).

Business group	Amount \$
Renewables and Carbon Farming	1,450
Reporting and Carbon Market	3,721
Operations	192
Total	5,363

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

Climate Change Authority:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was \$205 (GST inclusive).

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

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was \$15,505 (GST inclusive).

Business Group	Amount \$
Chairman's Office	394
Strategic Policy and Reef Stewardship	3,528
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use	1,720
Great Barrier Reef Operations	9,863
Total	15,505

- a. Hire car costs are incurred travelling across Regional Queensland to meet with the community to ensure the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef, and meeting with Government officials across the ACT. All hire of vehicles are used where taxi or public transport or other modes of travel is not efficient or effective.
- b. Nil.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was \$38,571 (GST inclusive).

Business Group	Amount \$
River Management	12,750
Environmental Management	3,357
Policy and Planning	12,320
Corporate and Business Services	10,144
Total	38,571

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.

b. Nil.

National Water Commission:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was \$103 (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.

b. Nil.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust:

Total expenditure from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014 was nil.

a. Not applicable.

b. Nil.