

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

Question No: 288
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - MEETING COSTS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, how much has the Department/Agency spent on meeting costs? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.

- a. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from Estimates, 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- b. What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

- a. The Department did not meet the cost of meetings for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary in relation to their portfolio responsibilities during the period from 1 May 2014 to 30 September 2014.

Details of expenditure on entitlements is compiled every six months in a report titled Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance. The reports and supporting information are published on the Finance website.

While Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries may attend meetings in relation to their portfolio responsibilities, the Department does not track meeting expenditure separately so this information is not available.

- b. The Department and the majority of Agencies do not track planned meeting expenditure within their budgetary and finance systems therefore this information is not available.

The only planned meeting expenditure from 1 October 2014 onwards for the Climate Change Authority (CCA) is for business catering at monthly Board meetings.

Planned meeting expenditure from 01 October 2014 onwards for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust), is set out in the table below:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
8 December 2014	Mosman, NSW	AR&CC Meeting	\$200.00
9 December 2014	North Head, NSW	The Chair's Christmas party for tenants, volunteers, community groups and other stakeholders	\$200.00
9 December 2014	Mosman, NSW	Board meeting	\$200.00

c. See answer to question a. above.