

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

Question No: 308
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - REVIEWS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

For any review commenced or ordered since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?

- a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
- b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
- c. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
- d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
- e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
- f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
- g. If yes, for each, who selected them
- h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
- i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
- ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
- iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
- iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
- v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

Answer:

Department of the Environment

a-h) Please see [Attachment A](#).

Portfolio Agencies

The following Portfolio Agencies provided a 'nil' response for all questions listed above:

Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Bureau of Meteorology, Clean Energy Regulator, Director of National Parks, National Water Commission and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

For any review commenced or ordered since the Budget Estimates (1 May 2014 - 30 Sep 2014), have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?

Name of Review	a) List any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review (including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names)	b) List their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent	c) For each list the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item	d) For each what is the nature of their involvement?	e) Are they on the lobbyist register, provide details for each?	f) For each what contact has the Minister or their office had with them?	g) For each, who selected them	h) For each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them?	h.i) If yes, please detail what involvement it was	h.ii) If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list?	h.iii) If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur?	h.iv) If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the Department?	h.v) If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur?
Independent Review of the National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development	Mr Stephen Hunter	N/A	Reviewer's Fees up to \$29,700; Reviewer's travel as approved by the Department	Independent reviewer	No	None known	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Yes	Ministerial appointment following consultation with parties to the National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development	Yes	21/05/2014	No	N/A
Second Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity	Ms Mary Lack - Shellack Pty Ltd	Ms Mary Lack - Director	Total cost is \$0 as the panel had not yet met. Professional Fees - \$1000/day (GST Inclusive)	Chair of the Expert Panel	No	None known	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Yes	The Expert Panel was selected and appointed by the Minister	No	2/09/2014	No	N/A
	Associate Professor Simon Goldsworthy - South Australian Research and Development Institute	Professor Pauline Mooney - Executive Director	Total cost is \$0 as the panel had not yet met. Professional Fees - \$670/day (GST Inclusive)	Member of the Expert Panel	No	None known	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Yes	The Expert Panel was selected and appointed by the Minister	No	2/09/2014	No	N/A
	Professor Peter Harrison - Southern Cross University	Professor Peter Lee - Vice Chancellor	Total cost is \$0 as the panel had not yet met. Professional Fees - \$670/day (GST Inclusive)	Member of the Expert Panel	No	None known	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Yes	The Expert Panel was selected and appointed by the Minister	No	2/09/2014	No	N/A

	Dr Cathy Bulman - CSIRO	Megan Clark - Chief Executive	Total cost is \$0 as the panel had not yet met. Professional Fees - \$670/day (GST Inclusive)	Member of the Expert Panel	No	None known	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Yes	The Expert Panel was selected and appointed by the Minister	No	2/09/2014	No	N/A
The Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review (the Review)	<p>1) The full membership of the Panels is available on the website: www.marinereservesreview.gov.au/</p> <p>2) GHD Pty Ltd</p>	<p>1) Expert Scientific Panel (ESP) - www.marinereservesreview.gov.au/scientific-review. Bioregional Advisory Panel (BAP) - www.marinereservesreview.gov.au/regional-review</p> <p>2) Board of Directors: Russell Board – Chairman, Ian Shepherd, May Ngui, Robert Knott, Michael Muntisov, Warren Traves, Ashley Wright, Richard Wankmuller, Peter Wasow, Mary Ann Hynes, Edward Roberts, Diane Lundquist</p>	<p>1) Panel Members are paid the following daily sitting fees: Chair / co-Chairs: \$1078 ESP Member: \$718 BAP Member: \$615 Panel Members are paid for preparation time per meeting, official travel time, travel expenses and allowances as set by Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/08 Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office and 2013/16: Official Travel by Office Holders</p> <p>2) The cost for the provision of services is: \$87,459</p>	<p>1) Panel Members have been appointed as part time office holders of the Department of Environment</p> <p>2) GHD Pty Ltd was engaged to: - administer receipt of submissions for the independent review; - manage an online survey for the independent review; and - provide a report on the submissions and survey results to the independent review</p>	No	<p>1) The ESP and BAP Chairs met with the Minister for the Environment on 5 and 25/09/2014, plus the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture on 25/09/2014. The Minister provided a message for the ESP meeting of 23-24/10/2014 and to the BAPs at their 5-6/11/2014 meeting</p> <p>2) Departmental records indicate that neither the Minister or his office have not met with this Company</p>	<p>1) All members were agreed by the Prime Minister, Minister for the Environment and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture as part of the process and jointly announced by them on 11/09/2014</p> <p>2) GHD Pty Ltd was the successful party who responded to a select Invitation to Quote for the services</p>	<p>1) Refer to answer at (g)</p> <p>2) The quote assessment process did not involve the Minister for the Environment or his office</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Review of Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011	The Climate Change Authority has recruited people via secondments and non-ongoing contracts to assist in these reviews. The Authority does not consider the other questions relevant on the basis of the nature of the engagements	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Synthesis of current knowledge of the biophysical impacts of dredging and disposal on the Great Barrier Reef	Please see: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/manaaging-the-reef/how-the-reefs-managed/expanding-knowledge-of-dredging/the-dredge-synthesis-panel	N/A	The costs incurred by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority between 01/05/2014 and 30/09/2014 included: travel and accomodation \$16,410 (GST inclusive) and professional fees \$6,600 (GST inclusive)	Expertise as part of the panel is as outlined below	No	The Minister or his office did not have contact with the panel members in relation to this project	The Panel Members were selected by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Chairman Russell Reichelt and Australian Institute of Marine Science Chief Executive Officer John Gunn	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A