

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15
23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Tasmanian Major Projects Approval Agency – Programme 3

REFERENCE: Written Question -

QUESTION No.: SI-73

1. How many Federal staff are now in Launceston? What APS level are they?
2. What is the cost of rental of the office space they are utilising?
3. How many projects are the officials working on? How many projects in the pipeline?
 - a. Can you provide a breakdown of how many there are over and under the \$50 million threshold?
4. Can you advise who are the members of the advisory board, when they were appointed and what their remuneration is?
5. Who determined the members of the advisory board? On what basis were they appointed?

ANSWER

1. There are four full-time (4.0 FTE) Agency staff located in Launceston. The team consists of an EL2, EL1, APS6 and APS5.
2. The office space utilised by the Tasmanian Major Project Approval Agency office is done so under a sub-lease arrangement with another Government agency. The cost of the sub-lease is \$40,000 per annum.
3. As at 7 November 2014, the Agency has formally engaged with 19 proponents. The Agency is actively supporting six of these projects, while undertaking ongoing engagement with 13 projects.
 - a). Thirteen of the 19 projects involve investments of \$50 million or more. The six projects being actively supported are a mix of projects above and below \$50 million.
4. The Tasmanian Major Projects Advisory Board is made up of two prominent Tasmanian representatives from the business sector and two ex-officio members representing the Australian and Tasmanian governments. Mr Bob Calvert and Dr Vicki Gardiner are the business representatives on the Advisory Board and Mr John Ryan Associate Secretary of the Australian Government's Department of Industry and Mr John Perry the Tasmanian Coordinator-General are the ex-officio Advisory Board members.

The Advisory Board appointments were announced by the Minister for Industry on 23 July 2014.

The Advisory Board's Chairperson, Mr Bob Calvert, receives remuneration of \$521 per day for days when the board meets. Advisory Board member Dr Vicki Gardiner receives remuneration of \$384 per day for days when the board meets. These rates are based on *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/08: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office*.

The ex-officio members of the Board are not remunerated.

5. The appointments to the Advisory Board were made by the Minister following consultation with the Prime Minister's office. The appointments were underlined by a process of determining the most appropriate candidates through a thorough selection and vetting procedure.