

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 128

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Green Army

Proof Hansard page: 22 (26.5.2015)

CHAIR asked:

CHAIR: Where are they based?

Ms Jakszewicz: They are national and international. They have locations all around Australia.

CHAIR: Could you take on notice to give us the details of their—

Ms Jakszewicz: They have offices in all the capital—

CHAIR: I would be interested in their background—where they pay their tax et cetera. Are they based in Bermuda, or—

Senator EDWARDS: They are not a dance troupe.

Ms Jakszewicz: They are listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.

CHAIR: I would be very interested to see their corporate background.

Answer:

As the Department of the Environment manages the contract with Manpower, it is not appropriate for Landcare Australia Limited to comment. Questions are best directed to the Department of the Environment.

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Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 129

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Green Army contract

Proof Hansard page: 22-23 (26.5.2015)

Senator SIEWERT asked:

Senator SIEWERT: What size contract have you got under the Green Army program?

Ms Jakszewicz: It is not a specific dollar amount, because each round that comes out, we have to bid—

Senator SIEWERT: You are bidding for each.

Ms Jakszewicz: Yes—we receive work depending on the range of volume we have said is the minimum and maximum amount we can take on in each period. We are operating in each state and territory except for the Northern Territory. At the moment, in terms of scale, we would be the second-biggest service provider of those which have contracts.

Senator SIEWERT: So what is the range of provision—

Ms Jakszewicz: Work volume?

Senator SIEWERT: or work volume you have taken on?

Ms Jakszewicz: It varies by year. It is a range and I cannot recall the numbers off the top of my head. Rather than just make them up, could I take it on notice and give them to you?

Senator SIEWERT: That would be great.

Answer:

Landcare Australia Limited bids for a number of projects with a lower limit of 190 and an upper limit of 570 projects over the three year contract term.

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Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 130

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Projects in states

Proof Hansard page: 23 (26.5.2015)

Senator SIEWERT asked:

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take on notice the size of the rounds and the projects you already have—in which states and with which groups?

Ms Jakszewicz: I know we have six in WA, and they are about to put people on the ground during June. I will give them to you.

Senator SIEWERT: I am particularly interested in my home state, but I am interested in projects around Australia.

Ms Jakszewicz: Sure.

Answer:

The projects currently assigned to Landcare Australia Limited, their location and the name of the project sponsor can be accessed via the Department of the Environment's website: www.environment.gov.au/land/green-army/projects. The total number of projects currently assigned to Manpower/Landcare Australia from Rounds one and two is 84.

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Question: 131

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Manpower

Proof Hansard page: 23 (26.5.2015)

CHAIR asked:

CHAIR: Could I go back to your relationship with Manpower. Just describe to me what your relationship with Manpower is.

Ms Jakszewicz: Basically, Manpower is the major partner in our arrangement.

CHAIR: Yes, but what is the arrangement?

Ms Jakszewicz: The arrangement is that they do the recruitment processes that—

CHAIR: Of who?

Ms Jakszewicz: ManpowerGroup—of the participants in the Green Army and the team leaders.

CHAIR: Could you supply the contract arrangements you have with Manpower?

Ms Jakszewicz: Yes.

Answer:

Manpower is a Green Army Service Provider with the Department of the Environment and Landcare Australia Limited is a sub-contractor to Manpower. The contract between Landcare Australia Limited and Manpower is commercial-in-confidence.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 132

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Contract with Manpower

Proof Hansard page: 24 (26.5.2015)

CHAIR asked:

CHAIR: But it is an interesting relationship because they are based in Milwaukee; they are all over the place, and we get them to supply—it is interesting that you have to get Manpower. I will be very interested to see the contract.

Ms Jakszewicz: They do all your Defence Force recruitment in Australia.

CHAIR: I do not care what they do. It seems to me that, if you have to get an international company to get people to go along and do the Green Army stuff, there is something that does not ring the bell about these being all well-meaning volunteers.

Senator Colbeck: They are Australian people.

Mr Thompson: I think LAL may be able to provide details of their contracts because they have authority over those, but they do not have authority over—if there is a separate contract between Manpower and the environment department, they would be questions better pursued with the environment department.

CHAIR: I am sure it is all quarantined.

Ms Jakszewicz: Yes. I can share what we do with Manpower, but I have to obviously run that past Manpower, I would think.

Senator SIEWERT: But you do not have a formal relationship with Manpower; is that right?

Ms Jakszewicz: No. We have a contractual arrangement with Manpower, yes.

CHAIR: Well, you can supply the contract you have.

Ms Jakszewicz: I would prefer to speak to Manpower before I issue a contract.

CHAIR: The more you say things like that, the more I wonder: what the bloody hell is this all about?

Ms Jakszewicz: It is just a standard commercial contract.

CHAIR: But it is purer than the driven snow. All these volunteers go out to the edge of Juneec and put in trees—you know, the Green Army movement—

Question: 132 (continued)

Ms Jakszewicz: They are not actually—

CHAIR: but, hello, we have a company from Milwaukee out to actually provide the labour to do it.

Ms Jakszewicz: They are actually not volunteers. These people are paid participants, but yes.

Senator SIEWERT: Can I just follow up.

Senator Colbeck: We will just take that on notice.

Answer:

Manpower is a Green Army Service Provider with the Department of the Environment and Landcare Australia Limited is a sub-contractor to Manpower. The contract between Landcare Australia Limited and Manpower is commercial-in-confidence.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 133

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Information to Manpower

Proof Hansard page: 24-25 (26.5.2015)

CHAIR asked:

CHAIR: Just pausing there: are you contracted to supply Manpower with information?

Ms Jakszewicz: We are contracted to provide Manpower with technical expertise.

CHAIR: They are not supplying something to you—

Ms Jakszewicz: No.

CHAIR: you are supplying something to them.

Ms Jakszewicz: And ManpowerGroup is one of the approved service providers.

CHAIR: They pay you to do that?

Ms Jakszewicz: Yes.

CHAIR: Could you supply those details of what you pay them?

Ms Jakszewicz: Yes.

CHAIR: Through you, Mr Thompson, we will put Environment on notice for us to be told the details of the contract that they have to pay Manpower to use the expertise which Landcare are paid for to do whatever it is in the Green Army. From my experience from various manpower providers, or labour hire providers, it is generally a very generous arrangement, so I would be very interested to see the contracts.

Mr Thompson: I am not familiar with the contract at all since we do not administer that program, but we will certainly make sure that the Department of the Environment are aware of it.

Answer:

Manpower is a Service Provider with the Department of the Environment; questions regarding Manpower's payments from that Department should be directed through the Department of the Environment.

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Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 134

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Lantana project

Proof Hansard page: 25 (26.5.2015)

Senator SIEWERT asked:

Senator SIEWERT: You just spoke about the lantana project. How many projects have reached completion?

Ms Jakszewicz: In our case, it would be a handful at this stage that have actually finished. There are a lot underway, halfway through and three-quarters of the way through.

Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I appreciate that. Are you able to provide us with examples of the sorts of audit results from those projects?

Ms Jakszewicz: I can provide what we do. Anything that you want from what the government does is obviously the Department of the Environment.

Senator SIEWERT: I know I have to ask them. They are on tonight. That is on tonight, so I will obviously chase that there. Could you take that on notice?

Ms Jakszewicz: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you.

Answer:

The number of projects that have currently been completed is three.

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Question: 135

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: How much the government provides to Landcare

Proof Hansard page: 25-26 (26.5.2015)

CHAIR asked:

CHAIR: I suppose it would be in your annuals how much the government provides to Landcare?

Ms Jakszewicz: In terms of the Department of Agriculture contract?

CHAIR: The taxpayer generally.

Mr Thompson: The total contribution that the government makes to Landcare and Landcare related projects is summarised in our annual report, but it is also in our portfolio budget statement.

CHAIR: Can you take that on notice and provide it as an answer to a question on notice to this committee, thanks.

Mr Thompson: Yes

Answer:

The current contract between the Department of Agriculture and Landcare Australia has a total value of \$4 561 000 (including GST) over four years between financial years 2013 and 2017.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 136

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: How much do Manpower pay you

Proof Hansard page: 26 (26.5.2015)

CHAIR asked:

CHAIR: Just to complete it: how much do Manpower pay you?

Ms Jakszewicz: They pay us about \$4,000 a project.

CHAIR: Take that on notice anyhow, and we will get the precise fee. Thank you very much for that.

Ms Jakszewicz: Thank you.

Answer:

Manpower is a Green Army Service Provider with the Department of the Environment and Landcare Australia Limited is a sub-contractor to Manpower. The contract between Landcare Australia Limited and Manpower is commercial-in-confidence.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question: 137

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Landcare groups

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

1. How many Landcare groups did LAL fund last year (out of 6.000)?
2. How much money did LAL contribute to these groups?

Answer:

1. 503 in the 2013–14 financial year.
2. \$2.05 million (2013–14 financial year).

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture

Question: 138

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: “new” money Landcare Australia Limited raised

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

How much “new” money did LAL raise last year from the corporate sector? (less than \$2M)

Answer:

\$2.8 million (2013–14 financial year).

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 139

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Landcare Australia Limited staff

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

1. How many staff does LAL employ? (+/- 20, last year now 23, most of the money raised would have gone just to maintain LAL)
2. How much did they donate? Out of total donations/sponsorship funds received last year?

Answer:

1. In the 2013–14 financial year Landcare Australia Limited had 18 employees, currently 19.
2. Landcare Australia Limited spent \$2.9 million on Landcare projects and Landcare promotion in the 2013–14 financial year. Landcare Australia Limited received \$2.8 million from corporates, fundraising and donations. Landcare Australia Limited also received \$1.4 million from government for fee-for-service activity.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 140

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Landcare Australia Limited Advisory Committee

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

1. How many members of the community Landcare Movement are on the LAL Advisory Committee?
2. How many meetings of the LAL Advisory Committee were held last year? Are members able to call meetings themselves or is it subject to budget approval by LAL? What is the budget for the Advisory Committee?
3. Are there any unfilled vacancies on the LAL advisory committee, how long have these positions been vacant, why have they not been filled, has there been and interest expressed by the community landcare movement in filling them?

Answer:

1. The Landcare Australia Limited Advisory Committee has four members from community landcare, one government representative, one representative from National Farmers' Federation and there are four vacancies. The Landcare Australia Limited Board is currently reviewing the role and structure of the Advisory Committee and will look to fill vacancies as appropriate when the review is completed.
2. In the 2013–14 financial year four Landcare Australia Limited Advisory Committee meetings were held. Yes, Committee members can call meetings. Landcare Australia Limited has a budget for 'governance' which includes the Advisory Committee.

The Landcare Australia 2013-2014 financial year governance budget included the following amounts:

- Board Expenses \$30 000
- Travel Expenses \$55 200

The line item "Board Expenses" included amounts related to the Advisory Council. Similarly the line item "Travel Expenses" included provision for travel to be undertaken by members of the Advisory Council. The government member's travel expenses are funded by the Department of Agriculture.

Question: 140 (continued)

3. Yes, Landcare Australia Limited has a number of vacancies which have been unfilled for greater than one year. There has been some expressed interest from some members of Landcare. The board is currently reviewing the appropriate composition of a Council before filling vacancies.

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Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 141

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Green Army and 20M Trees

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

When applying to be a service provider to government to implement Green Army and 20M Trees, how did LAL say it would be able to implement the program? Did they suggest or intimate that community Landcare was in any way the implementation group of LAL?

Answer:

Landcare Australia Limited's implementation plan was included in its submission to government. Landcare Australia Limited's participation provides opportunities for Landcare groups to access resources to assist in achieving Landcare outcomes if they wish.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 142

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Landcare Australia Limited consultation with community Landcare

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

Did LAL consult with the community Landcare movement before deciding to become a government service provider, if so how and when?

Answer:

No, because Landcare Australia Limited did not think it necessary or appropriate.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture

Question: 143

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Caring hands logo

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

Does LAL think that it is morally entitled to use the Caring hands (Landcare logo) to seek commercial advantage over its competitors in this new commercial venture?

Answer:

Yes, as a not-for-profit it is entirely consistent with Landcare Australia Limited's charter to raise funds for Landcare outcomes and where possible, engage community groups.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Budget Estimates May 2015

Agriculture

Question: 144

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Landcare Australia Limited's commercial activity

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

Does LAL think that its entry into this commercial activity in any affects its status as a Not for Profit (NFP) and its deductible gift status (DGS)?

Answer:

No, Landcare Australia Limited has historically undertaken fee-for-service activity on behalf of government to deliver Landcare outcomes. Landcare Australia Limited does not believe this impacts on its deductible gift status.

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Budget Estimates May 2015

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Question: 145

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Landcare Australia Limited's commercial venture

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

How does LAL explain choosing a multinational to partner with in this commercial venture.

Answer:

Landcare Australia Limited selected the most appropriate partner to deliver the outcomes. There are no restrictions on Landcare Australia Limited in relation to engagement of a multinational partner.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Budget Estimates May 2015

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Question: 146

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Use of the caring hands symbol

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

1. Does LAL think that the use of the caring hands in this way should have been somehow approved and consulted with the community landcare movement about, if not why not, if so did it and if so when and how?
2. Does LAL think that the use of the caring hands in this commercial venture is a risk to the reputation and value of the caring hands established by the good work of countless community landcarers over many years?

Answer:

1. Landcare Australia Limited's use of the caring hands logo is consistent with Landcare Australia Limited's objects outlined in its constitution. There is no requirement to specifically consult with landcare movement regarding its use. Landcare Australia Limited is the registered owner of the 'caring hands' trademark.
2. Landcare Australia Limited, similar to many Landcare groups, has invested a great deal in creating reputation and value for the benefit of Landcare as a whole. Landcare Australia Limited is very conscious that in all its activities it does not put this at unnecessary or unacceptable risk.