

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Committee Question Number: 150

Departmental Question Number: SQ17-000276

Program: 3.1: Regional Development

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: Regional Development Australia (RDA) Review

Proof Hansard Page: 129 (23 May 2017)

Senator McCarthy, Malarndirri and Senator Gallacher, Alex asked:

Senator McCARTHY: What has been the cost of the RDA review?

Ms Middleton: We would have to take that on notice.

...

Senator GALLACHER: Did you have a budget for the review? Was there a budgeted amount that would be set aside to conduct this review?

Mr Dreezer: I am not aware of the budget. I wasn't part of the team that formulated the budget. We would have to take that on notice for you.

...

Senator McCARTHY: Does anyone else on the table have figures?

Senator GALLACHER: We do not come here to swap goodwill; we come here to get factual figures about expenditure. I find it extraordinary that, out of the line of questioning, when it comes down to it: we cannot see the report, it will not be published and now you will not tell us how much it cost.

Ms Spence: We will take the final amount on notice. It was under \$50,000, as I recall.

Answer:

The cost of the RDA review was \$64,079 (GST exclusive) including \$39,579 for Mr Smith's fees and travel costs, and \$24,500 for the cost of the online survey completed by Orima Research.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Committee Question Number: 151
Departmental Question Number: SQ17-000277

Program: 3.1: Regional Development
Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories
Topic: Regional Development Australia (RDA) Review
Proof Hansard Page: 130 (23 May 2017)

Senator McCarthy, Malarndirri asked:

Senator McCARTHY: Can you tell me just where Mr Smith travelled as part of the review?

Mr Mrdak: I think we will have to take on notice to give you the full program of Mr Smith's travel and consultations.

Senator McCARTHY: Over that three-month period, that would be very good.

Mr Mrdak: Yes.

Senator McCARTHY: What was the cost of Mr Smith's work?

Mr Mrdak: Essentially, Ms Spence has given you what we—

Senator McCARTHY: That was under \$50,000 for the whole review, which I suspect—

Mr Mrdak: That was predominantly his costs—both payments and travel.

Senator McCARTHY: Under \$50,000. But you will get that confirmed in totality—the breakdown.

Mr Mrdak: That is right.

Senator Nash: We will get back to you with the figure.

Answer:

Please refer to Committee question number 150.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Committee Question Number: 152

Departmental Question Number: SQ17-000278

Program: 3.1: Regional Development

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: Regional Development Australia (RDA) Review

Proof Hansard Page: 130 (23 May 2017)

Senator McCarthy, Malarndirri asked:

Senator McCARTHY: Orima Research, an independent research company, has been contracted to conduct an online survey and provide the results to inform the independent review of the RDA program. What was the cost of that work?

Ms Middleton: We would have to take that on notice, too.

Answer:

Please refer to Committee question number 150.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Committee Question Number: 153

Departmental Question Number: SQ17-000335

Program: Financial Assistance Grant program

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: Federal funding to Torres Strait Island Regional Council regarding administrative burden

Proof Hansard Page: Written (8 June 2017)

Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:

1. Does the Federal government make a financial contribution to the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to directly compensate for the administrative burden on local government as day-to-day managers of Traditional Visitor movements?
2. Does the Federal government make a financial contribution to Torres Strait Island Regional Council to directly compensate for the infrastructure and services impacts on local government as hosts of Traditional Visitors?

Answer:

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council receives untied funding under the Financial Assistance Grant program allowing it to be spent on local priorities. The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development does not provide any specific funding to the council for Traditional Visitors movements.