

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 173

**Division/Agency:** Office of the General Counsel

**Topic:** Cost of external legal advice

**Proof Hansard page:** 81

**Senator CAROL BROWN asked:**

**Senator CAROL BROWN:** In terms of that external legal advice that you sought, could you indicate on notice the cost—you said you do not think you have it here—of that?

**Mr Quinlivan:** Yes.

**Answer:**

Legal advice and representation provided by the Australian Government Solicitor for the two applications for review to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal amounted to \$40 024.85, comprising \$39 090.74 for legal fees and \$934.11 for filing fees and disbursements. All amounts included GST.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 174

**Division/Agency:** Office of the General Counsel

**Topic:** Legal expenses

**Proof Hansard page:** 85-86

**Senator CAROL BROWN asked:**

**Senator CAROL BROWN:** Mr Quinlivan, you talked about the costs thus far—about the Dr Grimes letter being less than \$35,000. Is there any chance you can be a bit more specific?

**Mr Quinlivan:** I was giving you the information that is in my brief. I would interpret that to mean it is not much less, but somewhat less.

**Senator CAROL BROWN:** You could just table that brief, if you like.

**Mr Quinlivan:** In any case, I will take it on notice to provide you with the legal expenses.

**Senator CAROL BROWN:** Yes, the legal expenses and, if you can, the exact figure.

**Mr Quinlivan:** For the application to the AAT?

**Senator CAROL BROWN:** Yes.

**Mr Quinlivan:** Sure.

**Answer:**

Refer to response to Question 173 from Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 175

**Division/Agency:** Office of the General Counsel

**Topic:** Grimes letter

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

What are the associated costs relating to the defending of keeping the letter secret?

**Answer:**

Refer to response to Question 173 from Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 176

**Division/Agency:** Office of the General Counsel

**Topic:** Grimes letter

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Has the department sought external legal advice regarding this matter?

**Answer:**

Yes. The department received legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 177

**Division/Agency:** Office of the General Counsel

**Topic:** Cost of the letter

**Proof Hansard page:** Page 80

**Senator CAROL BROWN asked:**

**Senator CAROL BROWN:** Will you be able to provide on notice the exact costs that you have had to pay in terms of keeping the letter secret?

**Answer:**

Yes. Refer to response to Question 173 from Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016.