

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question 259**  
**Topic:** Fraud cases 2010-11 **No:**  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Joyce asked:**

1. Can you provide details of the three suspected fraud cases referred to the Australian Federal Police in 2010-11? Have any charges been laid as a result of these referrals? If so, what are the details of these charges?

**Answer:**

**Case 1 of 3**

This matter relates to the attempted sale of material purported to be from an historic shipwreck and was referred to the Australian Federal Police due to allegations that the supporting documentation was a forgery that had used the Commonwealth crest. The most recent correspondence from the Australian Federal Police indicates that the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions is reviewing the matter. The outcome of this review is unknown at this stage.

**Case 2 of 3**

This matter relates to alleged misappropriation of Indigenous Heritage Program grant funding. The matter was referred to the Australian Federal Police; however the Australian Federal Police did not accept the matter for investigation.

**Case 3 of 3**

This matter relates to alleged misappropriation of Community Water Grant Program funding. The matter was referred to the Australian Federal Police; however the Australian Federal Police did not accept this matter for investigation.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 260  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – media training  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date or Written Question:** Written

**Senator Fisher asked:**

In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted
4. The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a. The name and nature of the service purchased
- b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d. The total number of hours involved for all employees
- e. The total amount spent on the service
- f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:

- i. The location used
- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part
- iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

**Answer:**

***Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities***

1-4. All media training provided to departmental officers to date this financial year has been provided in house by the media team.

**Murray Darling Basin Authority**

1. \$3,000.
2. Five employees (one at Chief Executive level; two at Executive Director level; two at General Manager level).
3. Five employees (one at Chief Executive level; two at Executive Director level; two at General Manager level. No study leave was required.
4. Laurie Wilson & Associates Pty Ltd
  - a. Media training
  - b. Group based
  - c. See answer to question 3
  - d. Six hours per employee
  - e. \$3,000
  - f. Daily fee is \$3,000. This includes a day's delivery plus preparation of up to two hours, provision of a camera and notes.

**National Water Commission**

1. \$6,803.50.
2. Four: Commissioners, CEO.
3. Two: 2 Commissioners. No study leave was granted for the training.
4. Corporate Media Services.

|     | <b>Corporate Media Services</b>    | <b>Corporate Media Services</b>    |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a.  | Media training                     | Media training                     |
| b.  | One on one                         | One on one                         |
| c.  | Commissioner                       | Commissioner                       |
| d.  | 5 hours                            | 4 hours                            |
| e.  | \$3,850                            | \$2,953.50                         |
| f.  | Complete package                   | Complete package                   |
| i   | Australian Institute of Management | Australian Institute of Management |
| ii  | Commissioner                       | Commissioner                       |
| iii | 5 hours                            | 4 hours                            |
| iv  | Nil                                | Nil                                |

**Director of National Parks**

1. For the period 1 July to 13 February, the Director of National Parks spent \$7,200 (GST inclusive) on media training.
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification:

| <b>Classification</b> | <b>Number of employees</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| APS 2                 | 1                          |
| APS 3                 | 5                          |
| APS 4                 | 7                          |
| APS 5                 | 2                          |
| APS 6                 | 3                          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>18</b>                  |

3. The number of employees and their classification is outlined at (2) above. Each employee undertook training for 7 hours.
4. The training provider was Ken Begg and Associates.
  - a. Media training.
  - b. Group based.
  - c. Please refer to question 2 above.
  - d. 126 hours.
  - e. Please refer to question 1 above.
  - f. \$2,200 a day for the complete package, all training was provided at Director of National Parks locations.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 261

**Topic:** DSEWPaC - communications/  
advertising

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written

**or Written Question:**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Please detail all advertising expenditure in financial year 2011-12 to date by campaign, including the campaign's purpose, total cost (including campaign research and design) and media (i.e. print, radio, TV etc) involved. In each case, if the campaign was part of a broader strategy, what other communications activities were undertaken and at what cost? Please provide a similar breakdown on budgeted future spending.

**Answer:**

1. The department has not undertaken any campaign advertising to date in 2011-12. At the time of writing, there were no campaign advertising activities planned for the department.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question 262**  
**Topic:** Regulatory Impact Statement process **No:**  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** 82  
**or Written Question:** (13/2/12)

**Senator Waters asked:**

Senator WATERS: Has the Office of Best Practice Regulation sought advice from you, SEWPaC, over the last five years, in terms of quantifying environmental impacts for the RIS process?

Mr Thompson: I could not tell you that off the top of my head, sorry.

Senator WATERS: Could you take that on notice, too?

Mr Thompson: Yes.

**Answer:**

The department has not been able to identify any records of such advice being requested over the last five years.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question 263**  
**Topic:** One-off sustainability grants **No:**  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

With reference to a number of grants listed for the period 3 May 2011 to 26 September 2011, pursuant to the order of the Senate of 24 June 2008, having been identified as 'One Off Sustainability Grants':

1. For each of financial year 2010-11 and financial year 2011-12 to date, please list all 'One Off Sustainability Grants' provided, detailing each recipient and the value of each grant.
2. On what basis were these 'One Off Sustainability Grants' provided? For each grant provided this financial year, what deliverables are expected?
3. Were these grants the subject of competitive applications? What, if any, criteria applied?

**Answer:**

1. One-off Sustainability Grants under the then named Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations were offered in 2010-11 although some of these grants were paid in the 2011-12 financial year.

| <b>Organisation</b>  | <b>Grant</b> |
|--|--------------|
| Conservation Council of SA                                 | \$50,000     |
| Conservation Council ACT Region                            | \$50,000     |
| Conservation Council of WA                                 | \$50,000     |
| Environment Centre of the Northern Territory               | \$25,000     |
| Arid Lands Environment Centre                              | \$25,000     |
| Environment Victoria                                       | \$50,000     |
| Nature Conservation Council of NSW                         | \$25,000     |
| Queensland Conservation Council Association                | \$50,000     |
| Tasmanian Environment Centre (Sustainable Living Tasmania) | \$50,000     |
| Total Environment Centre NSW                               | \$25,000     |

2. To provide additional support for community activity in the sustainability sphere.

One-off Sustainability grants for the 2010-11 financial year were granted on the condition that the grant must be spent only for the purposes allowed under the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisation Program Guidelines. The grants are designed to assist with the administrative costs for eligible organisations and may include: salaries for executive and administrative staff; office rents; utilities and communications charges; office supplies and equipment; insurance; staff and volunteer training; photocopying and printing expenses; and travel costs.

3. Yes. One-off 2010-11 expressions of interest were sought from state-level environmental community-based environment and heritage organisations who contribute to the protection and conservation of Australia's environment and heritage. The following assessment criteria applied:

- The geographic coverage of the organisation's activities.
- The significance and breadth of the organisation's sustainability activities.
- The effectiveness and level of community participation achieved in the take-up and impact of the organisation's sustainability activities.
- The organisation's capacity to provide current and future public information, advisory services, research, advocacy or policy development related to sustainability issues.
- The amount of 2010-11 Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisation funding already received by an applicant.



**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question 264**  
**Topic:** Government advertising **No:**  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. What was the total cost of all advertising for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
2. For each of those years, list whether the advertising is campaign or non-campaign and details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
3. Did the Department of Finance and Deregulation provide any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
4. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.
5. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
6. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

**Answer:**

***Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities***

1. The total cost of non-campaign and campaign advertising for the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is outlined in the table below.

| Financial Year | Total cost     |
|----------------|----------------|
| 2007-08        | \$8,890,687.71 |
| 2008-09        | \$581,839.20   |
| 2009-10        | \$1,677,106.57 |
| 2010-11        | \$4,883,242.00 |

2. The department and portfolio are covered by a whole-of-government contract with Universal McCann for planning and placement of campaign advertising, and Adcorp Australia Ltd for media placement of non-campaign advertising. The department's total spend on campaign advertising for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is outlined in the following table:

*Campaign advertising:*

| Financial Year | Agency           | Purpose   | Expenditure    |
|----------------|------------------|---|----------------|
| 2007-08        | M&C Saatchi      | Climate Change project  | \$100,680      |
|                | Universal McCann | Climate Clever project  | \$8,257,451.71 |
|                | Peach            | Defeating the Weed Menace   | \$532,556      |
| 2008-09        | Boiler Room      | Consumer air conditioner information campaign                           | \$581,839.20   |
| 2009-10*       | N/A              | N/A   | N/A            |
| 2010-11        | AJF Partnership  | Creative advertising agency for the Water for the Future campaign       | \$1,571,929    |
|                | Universal McCann | Placement of campaign advertising in the media for Water for the Future | \$2,550,946    |

\* The department did not undertake any campaign advertising (i.e. \$250,000 or more, as defined in the Australian Government Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns), in 2009-10.

*Non-campaign advertising*

Expenditure on non-campaign advertising includes gazette and recruitment advertising, public information notices, request for tenders and expressions of interest. Providing specific details for each item for the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 would involve an extensive manual process.

3. The Government Communication Unit was transferred to the Department of Finance and Deregulation in early 2008 and renamed the Communications Advice Branch (CAB). CAB has provided advice and guidance to the department on the development and implementation of communication campaigns. The Independent Communications Committee (ICC) was appointed to consider whether proposed campaigns comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (Guidelines). Reports detailing advice from the ICC to government agencies are available on the Department of Finance and Deregulation website.
4. The department has adhered to Australian Government Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns in the development, implementation and evaluation of all communication campaigns. Campaign advertising is placed through Universal McCann and non-campaign advertising is placed through Adcorp.
5. The department utilises panel arrangements for creative and printing services which are managed by the Department of Human Services. The communication activities are procured from various suppliers selected through an AusTender process. For the purpose of this response 'communications program' is defined as: the communication of a Government message to the public—possibly by advertising (print, television etc), possibly through the erection of signs, plaques etc, or through other mediums. Departmental expenditure on communication related activities for 2010-11 was **\$858,589.19**.

6. Communication strategies are developed for each communication program and may include activities such as websites, publications, events, advertising, public relations and media liaison. These activities are not campaign advertising and are undertaken as part of broader stakeholder engagement to communicate the department's activities and services. For example, the Murray Darling Basin Authority has placed advertisements in all major Basin state and territory papers and regional papers on release of the draft Basin Plan, consistent with section 43(5) of the *Water Act 2007*, which states that an invitation for submissions on the draft Basin Plan must be published in the Gazette and in newspapers circulating generally in each Basin State. At the time of writing, there were no campaign advertising activities planned for the department.

**Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau)**

1.

|   |                        |                  |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>2006-07</b>                                      | (as per annual report) |                  |
| HMA Blaze   |                        | \$182,708        |
| American Association for the Advancement of Science |                        | \$4,401          |
|   |                        | <b>\$187,109</b> |
| <b>2007-08</b>                                      | (as per annual report) |                  |
| Email Media   |                        | \$1,755          |
| Australian Associated Press P/L                     |                        | \$4,612          |
| HMA Blaze   |                        | \$290,967        |
|   |                        | <b>\$297,334</b> |
| <b>2008-09</b>                                      | (as per annual report) |                  |
| Earthworks  |                        | \$2,469          |
| Hallmark Editions                                   |                        | \$2,717          |
| HMA Blaze   |                        | \$493,104        |
|   |                        | <b>\$498,290</b> |
| <b>2009-10</b>                                      | (as per annual report) |                  |
| Adcorp  |                        | \$270,092        |
| Earthworks  |                        | \$2,598          |
| HMA Blaze   |                        | \$3,965          |
|   |                        | <b>\$276,655</b> |

|                                     |                        |                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>2010-11</b>                      | (as per annual report) |                    |
| Adcorp                              |                        | \$33,992           |
| Fairfax Media                       |                        | \$24,500           |
| Royal Automobile Association        |                        | \$2,565            |
|                                     |                        | <b>\$61,057</b>    |
| <b>2011-12 (to 31 January 2012)</b> |                        |                    |
| Unimail                             |                        | \$1,800            |
| GradConnection                      |                        | \$4,000            |
| Adcorp                              |                        | \$36,954.91        |
| APS Public Service Gazette          |                        | \$28,346.43        |
| APS Commission                      |                        | \$4,724.40         |
|                                     |                        | <b>\$75,825.74</b> |

2. All services are for non-campaign. Spending is included in table above.
3. No advice was provided.
4. Yes.
5. Not applicable for the Bureau.
6. Not applicable for the Bureau.

***Murray Darling Basin Authority (the Authority)***

1. The cost of advertising by year:
  - 2008-09: \$198,152;
  - 2009-10: \$104,452\*; and
  - 2010-11: \$109,640\*\*

2. *Campaign advertising*

The Authority has not undertaken any campaign advertising (i.e. \$250,000 or more, as defined in the Australian Government Advertising Guidelines), during 2008-09 through to 2010-11.

*Non-campaign advertising*

In 2008-09 HMA Blaze and Adcorp Australia Ltd provided media placement of non-campaign advertising services. In 2009-10 and 2010-11 Adcorp Australia Ltd provided these services. In all years the majority of the costs related to recruitment advertising.

\*Includes advertising in key regional and major papers within the Basin states and the ACT for Independent Audit Group (CAP) membership applications.

\*\*Includes advertising in key regional and major papers within the Basin states and the ACT informing stakeholders and communities of the regional meetings throughout the consultation period with the release of the Guide to the Basin Plan.

3. No.
4. The Authority has not undertaken any campaign advertising activities during the reporting period of 2008-09 through to 2010-11.
5. The Authority has no spending on other communications program during the reporting period.
6. The Authority is currently not planning any major spend on campaign advertising. The only non-campaign advertising planned is in relation to normal recruitment advertising.

### ***Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)***

#### 1. Total cost of advertising:

- 2007-08: \$464,779;
- 2008-09: \$350,776;
- 2009-10: \$96,850; and
- 2010-11: \$178,482.

#### 2. *Details of advertising for 2007-08*

In 2007-08, the social marketing television campaign called Reef House was aired. It involved 15 television "infomercials" that focussed on what actions can damage the health of the Reef, and reminders of action people can take at home to protect the Reef.

Non-campaign advertising was run in mainstream regional media and specialist publications about the zoning rules in the Marine Park. The aim was to encourage fishers to comply with the rules and advise that fines apply when the rules are breached.

Non-campaign advertising was also run to market the GBRMPA's national education centre, ReefHQ Aquarium.

*Total spend in 2007-08 on advertising was:*

- Reef House advertising: \$54,469;
- Zoning education: \$194,720;
- ReefHQ Aquarium: \$61,952; and
- Recruitment: \$153,638.

*Details of advertising for 2008-09:*

In 2008-09, the Reef House advertising campaign was again aired. It involved two television commercials that focussed on what actions can damage the health of the Reef, and reminders of actions people can take at home to protect the Reef.

Non-campaign advertising was aired to inform Reef users of the zoning rules in the Marine Park and to market ReefHQ Aquarium.

*The total spend in 2008-09 on advertising was:*

- Reef House advertising (HMA Blaze Pty Ltd): \$77,326;
- Zoning education (HMA Blaze Pty Ltd): \$118,205;
- ReefHQ Aquarium (HMA Blaze Pty Ltd): \$60,636; and
- Recruitment (HMA Blaze Pty Ltd): \$94,609.

*Details of advertising for 2009-10:*

In 2009-10, no campaign advertising was run.

Non-campaign advertising was run about zoning rules and to market ReefHQ Aquarium.

*The total spend in 2009-10 on advertising was:*

- Zoning education (Universal McCann): \$51,583;
- ReefHQ Aquarium (TOTAL a.+b.): \$40,657
  - a. (Universal McCann): \$37,902;
  - b. (HMA Blaze Pty Ltd): \$2,755; and
- Recruitment (HMA Blaze Pty Ltd): \$4,610

*Details of advertising for 2010-11:*

Phase 1 of "*Working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow*" advertising program featured Reef Guardian fishers, farmers, schools and councils showcasing their voluntary good environmental efforts to care for the Reef.

The program included the following television advertisements:

Overarching advertisement explaining outlook for Reef.

Five individual sub-advertisements, featuring a Reef Guardian cane farmer, banana farmer, school, council and fisher.

The advertising supports the Australian Government's 2010 Budget commitment to "Improving the Outlook for the Great Barrier Reef" through the expansion of the Reef Guardians Stewardship Program.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation advised that the Reef Guardian advertising program was "operational" for GBRMPA and not a "campaign" in nature.

All advertising booking services were provided by the Australian Government's advisor on advertising, Universal McCann. No creative advertising agency was appointed. Production of the advertisements was by Digital Dimensions, Townsville.

Other non-campaign advertising included electronic and print advertisements to advise Great Barrier Reef users to get their Zoning Plan maps before going out on the Reef; to advise stakeholders of the Indigenous Grants Program; and, to market ReefHQ Aquarium.

*Total spend in 2010-11 on advertising was:*

- Improving the Outlook - Reef Guardian (Universal McCann): \$72,971;
- Zoning education (Universal McCann): \$39,324;
- ReefHQ Aquarium (Universal McCann): \$24,269;
- Indigenous Grants Program (Adcorp Aust): \$11,157; and
- Recruitment (Adcorp Aust): \$30,761.

*Details of advertising for 2011-12:*

Phase 2 of the "*Working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow*" advertisements, as detailed above under 2010-11, is being implemented in 2011-12.

To date, this has included a two week re-run of the television advertisements (as detailed above under 2010-11) and a newspaper insert distributed in regional newspapers. The insert showcased the voluntary environmental initiatives of Reef Guardian schools, councils, farmers and fishers.

3. The Department of Finance and Deregulation advised that the Reef Guardian advertising program, including the television advertisements and the newspaper insert, was "operational" for GBRMPA and not a "campaign" in nature.
4. The advertising complied with the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies*, but it did not require review by the Independent Communications Committee to ensure compliance with the guidelines. GBRMPA ensured the Department of Finance and Deregulation was kept informed throughout the planning, development and implementation of the advertisements.
5. Other communication programs in 2011-12 have included:
  - Reef Guardian communications, including signage, banners, certificates and promotional materials: \$10,534;
  - Sea Country Partnerships grants and sponsorships flier, Reef Fact: \$5,925; and
  - Four editions of SeaRead magazine: \$12,912.
6. It is proposed to air a further round of the "*Working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow*" advertisements on regional television in April/May 2012.

Non-campaign print and electronic advertising is aired annually, particularly at peak times such as Easter, Christmas and school holidays, to educate Great Barrier Reef fishers, boaties and other users about Zoning Maps and the rules of the Reef.

*Details of Advertising for 2011-12, as at 31 January 2012:*

| <b>Item</b>                  |        | <b>Total Spend</b> | <b>Business provider</b>  |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------------|---|
| Reef Guardian advertising    | GBRMPA | \$94,689           | Universal McCann  |
| Reef Guardian advertising    | GBRMPA | \$25,621           | Townsville Bulletin   |
| Reef Guardian advertising    | GBRMPA | \$16,611           | Fishing/boating magazines   |
| Zoning education advertising | GBRMPA | \$17,678           | Universal McCann  |
| Zoning education advertising | GBRMPA | \$3,195            | Fishing / Boating Magazines   |
| Reef HQ Aquarium advertising | GBRMPA | \$45,127           | Radio, Newspapers, TV, Tourism Publications, Tourism Events, Travel Publications. |
| Recruitment                  | GBRMPA | \$20,862           | Adcorp  |

***National Water Commission (the Commission)***

1. The total cost of advertising for (including GST):
  - 2007-08: \$56,181.13;
  - 2008-09: \$10,521.52;
  - 2009-10: \$25,671.65; and
  - 2010-11: \$10,931.06.
2. No campaign advertising was undertaken in any of the years 2007-08 to 2010-11. Expenditure on non-campaign advertising (response to question 1 above) included recruitment advertising, the Commission's specific notices in periodicals and journals, listings in White Pages, calls for applications for Raising National Water Standards fellowship grant funding, and requests for tender. Providing specific details for each item for the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 would involve an extensive manual process.
3. The Department of Finance and Deregulation has not provided advice specifically to the Commission on its advertising activities.
4. The Commission has not undertaken any campaign advertising (ie \$250,000 or more, as defined in the Australian Government Advertising Guidelines) in any of the years 2007-08 to 2010-11.



5. The Commission has not spent funds in 2011-12 to date on communication activities ('communication activities' for the purpose of the response is defined as: *the communication of a government message to the public*).
6. At the time of responding there were no campaign, non-campaign or communication activities being undertaken or planned.

***Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust)***

1. Total cost of advertising for:
  - 2007-08: \$200,786.75;
  - 2008-09: \$130,555.98;
  - 2009-10: \$109,566.33; and
  - 2010-11: \$ 76,971.60.
2. The Trust's advertising is non-campaign advertising in support of the organisation's leasing activities, tender requests, recruitment and public programs such as tours and events. All advertising is placed through the government's preferred advertising agency (Adcorp and its predecessors) which provides bookings, production and placement services. The Trust does not have responsibility for any government-funded programs. The total advertising spend is provided in answer to Question 1.
3. No advice was sought from the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
4. The Trust does not implement information and advertising campaigns.
5. The Trust has not conducted communications programs that are similar in nature to information or advertising campaigns. See answer to Question 2.
6. Current activities being undertaken or planned include:
  - Cockatoo Island accommodation advertising;
  - Cockatoo Island event advertising;
  - North Head tourism advertising;
  - Public relations and media activities;
  - Online advertising—social media, e-newsletters;
  - Brochureware and collateral;
  - Website design and development; and
  - Harbour Trust tender advertising.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 265  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – board appointments  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.
2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
3. Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date.

**Answer:**

1. In accordance with Senate Order 13, the details of the boards within this portfolio, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members, were tabled in the Senate prior to Supplementary Budget Estimates in October 2011 (refer to Question Number 226). In addition, updated details of the boards were tabled in accordance with Senate Order 13 in the Senate in February 2012.
2. The Gender ratio on each board across the portfolio is outlined in the table below.
3. Board appointments for this financial year to date are reflected in Senate Order 13 tabled in the Senate in October 2011 and February 2012.

| <b>Board</b>   | <b>Gender Ratio<br/>F:M</b>    |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee                   | 4:21                           |
| Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee                  | 3:10                           |
| Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee                            | 4:3                            |
| Antarctic Science Advisory Committee                         | 3:5                            |
| Australia-Netherlands Committee on Old Dutch Shipwrecks      | 0:2                            |
| Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Committee               | 1:1                            |
| Australian Antarctic Program Human Research Ethics Committee | 1:2                            |
| Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee     | All positions currently vacant |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Australian Heritage Council  | 4:3  |
| Booderee National Park Board of Management                                       | 5:7  |
| Interim Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Coal Mining | 1:3  |
| Fuel Standards Consultative Committee  | 3:14 |
| Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority   | 1:4  |
| Hazardous Waste Technical Group  | 2:6  |
| Indigenous Advisory Committee  | 3:8  |
| Kakadu National Park Board of Management   | 2:10 |
| Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee                                     | 6:9  |
| Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel  | 3:4  |
| Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board  | 2:3  |
| Murray-Darling Basin Authority   | 3:3  |
| National Water Commission  | 3:4  |
| National Wildlife Corridors Plan Advisory Group                                  | 7:6  |
| Sydney Harbour Federation Trust  | 4:3  |
| Threatened Species Scientific Committee  | 4:6  |
| Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management                               | 3:6  |

For the following boards the Australian Government appoints the chair but is not involved in other board appointments.

|   |
|---|
| Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh) World Heritage Area Community and Scientific Advisory Committee            |
| Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee  |
| Board of Directors of the Wet Tropics Management Authority  |
| Fraser Island World Heritage Area Community Advisory Committee  |
| Fraser Island World Heritage Area Indigenous Advisory Committee   |
| Fraser Island World Heritage Area Scientific Advisory Committee   |
| Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Advisory Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee                   |
| Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area Community Advisory Committee                                      |
| Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Advisory Committee  |
| Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Consultative Committee   |
| Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Property Community Management Council/Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee |

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question 266**  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – freedom of information **No:**  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What was the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
4. How many FOI requests did the Department receive for the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11? For each financial year, how many requests were denied and how many were granted? Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
5. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
6. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

***Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities***

1. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the department) and its portfolio agencies follow the advice and protocols provided by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (the OAIC) in line with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) and FOI Guidance Notes. The department also follows the FOI Guidance notes provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 28 July 2011 which are available at [http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance\\_notes.cfm](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance_notes.cfm).
2. For the financial year 2009-10 (as reported in the FOI Act Annual Report 2009-10), the total cost to the department to process FOI requests was \$362,224.  
  
For the financial year 2010-11 (as reported in the FOI Act Annual Report 2010-11), the total cost to the department to process FOI requests was \$373,367.
3. For the financial year 2011-12 to date (1 July 2011 to 13 February 2012), the total cost to the department to process FOI requests has been approximately \$285,966.

4. For the financial year 2009-10 (as reported in the FOI Act Annual Report 2009-10), the department received 76 FOI requests and had 11 carried over from the financial year 2008-09. Of the total 87, 15 were granted in full, 20 were granted in part, 12 were refused, 15 were withdrawn, 17 were transferred to another agency for processing and eight were still being processed as of 1 July 2010.

For the financial year 2009-10, the department processed 27 FOI requests outside the statutory timeframe as provided by the FOI Act.

For the financial year 2010-11 (as reported in the FOI Act Annual Report 2010-11), the department received 82 FOI requests under the FOI Act. Of the total 82, 24 were granted in full, 19 were granted in part, 13 were refused, 14 were withdrawn and 12 were outstanding as of 30 June 2011.

For the financial year 2010-11, the department processed 25 FOI requests outside the statutory timeframe as provided by the FOI Act.

As of 13 February 2012, the department does not have any outstanding FOI requests from the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

5. For the financial year 2011-12 to date (1 July 2011-13 February 2012) the department has received 87 FOI requests and had 12 FOI requests carried over from the financial year 2010-2011. Of the total 99 FOI requests, 14 were granted in full, 18 were granted in part, six were refused, 33 were withdrawn, one was transferred to another agency for processing and 27 were still being processed as of 13 February 2012.

For the financial year 2011-12 to date, the department processed five FOI requests outside the statutory timeframe as provided by the FOI Act.

6. Nil.

***Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)***

1. No.
2. Total non-staff costs to GBRMPA to process Freedom of Information (FOI) requests for 2009-10 are \$2,989.

Total non-staff costs to GBRMPA to process FOI requests for 2010-11 are \$76.

3. Nil.
4. FOI requests received for the financial year 2009-10: one  
FOI requests received for the financial year 2010-11: three  
FOI requests denied for the financial year 2009-10: Nil  
FOI requests denied for the financial year 2010-11: Nil  
FOI requests granted for the financial year 2009-10: one  
FOI requests granted for the financial year 2010-11: three

Has GBRMPA failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests:  
No.

Do any of these requests remain outstanding: No.

5. FOI requests received for this financial year to date: three

FOI requests denied for this financial year to date: Nil (two requests were withdrawn and one transferred in full).

FOI requests granted for this financial year to date: Nil (two requests were withdrawn and one transferred in full).

Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests: No.

6. None, conclusive certificates were abolished in 2009.

#### ***National Water Commission (the Commission)***

1. Since the previous estimates hearings from October 2011, nil.
2. The total cost to the Commission to process FOI requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11, nil.
3. The total cost to the Commission to process FOI requests from 1 July 2011 to 13 February 2012, nil.
4. In financial year 2010-11 the Commission received three requests that were all granted. Processing times were met and no requests remain outstanding.

In financial year 2009-10 the Commission received one request, which was withdrawn by the applicant. No requests were granted or denied.

5. The Commission received nil requests from 1 July 2011 to 13 February 2012.
6. None, conclusive certificates were abolished in 2009.

#### ***Murray Darling Basin Authority (the Authority)***

1. The Authority follows advice and protocols provided by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (the OAIC) in line with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) and FOI Guidance Notes.
2. The Authority's total cost to process FOI requests for the financial year 2009-10 was \$6,799 and for the financial year for 2010-11 was \$196,727.
3. The Authority's total cost to process FOI requests from 1 July 2011 to 13 February 2012 was \$51,932.
4. For the financial year 2009-10, the Authority received two FOI requests, one was granted in full and the other was granted in part. No requests failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act. No requests remain outstanding.

For the financial year 2010-11, the Authority received 23 FOI requests, two were granted in full, 13 were granted in part, five were refused (one due to documents being publicly available) and three were withdrawn. No requests failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act. No requests remain outstanding.

5. For the financial year 1 July 2011 to 13 February 2012, the Authority has received 15 FOI requests, three were granted in full, five were granted in part, four were refused (two due to no relevant documents found), and three were being processed. No requests failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act.
6. None, conclusive certificates were abolished in 2009.

### ***Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust)***

1. Yes, a full day training program was provided by OAIC to staff on 24 November 2011.
2. For 2009-10 the total cost to the Trust was \$2,493.47. For 2010-11 the total cost to the Trust was \$180.
3. For the financial year to date the Trust has received one FOI request. The cost to the Trust to process this request is \$1,578.00.
4. For the financial year 2009-10 the Trust received two FOI applications. Of these one was granted in part and the other received no reply after a costs notice was issued. One request was processed outside the specified timeframes due to delays in the referral process. No requests are outstanding.

For the financial year 2010/11 the Trust received one FOI application. No response was received after a costs notice was issued. This request was processed within the specified timeframes. No requests remain outstanding.

5. For the financial year to date, the Trust received one FOI application. This request was granted in full. Due to an administrative oversight, this request was processed outside of the specified timeframe, but with the agreement of the applicant. No requests are outstanding.
6. None, conclusive certificates were abolished in 2009.

### ***Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau)***

1. The Bureau did not receive any general advice however it did consult solicitors on specific issues such as clearing 'decision' letters.
2. Total cost to the Bureau to provide FOI requests:  
2009/2010 - Staff time 12 hours (\$792)  
2010/2011 - Staff time of 180 hours (\$11,880) and \$19,956 external legal expenses.
3. Total cost for July 2011 to 13 February 2012, Staff time 25 hours (\$1,650), external solicitor's costs \$7,415.10.
4. Number of requests and processing:
  - 2009/2010, four requests received;
  - three released in full;
  - one withdrawn; and
  - All requests were processed within required timeframes.
  - 2010/2011, eight requests received;
  - four released in full;
  - three released in part;
  - one withdrawn; and
  - All requests were processed within required timeframes.



5. July 2011 to 13 February 2012:

- ten requests received
- one released in full
- one withdrawn
- one released in part
- six refused due to section 12(c)
- one being processed at 13 February 2012.

6. None, conclusive certificates were abolished in 2009.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 267  
**Topic:** Community cabinets  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date or Written Question:** Written

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date?
2. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel?
3. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses.
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

1. For this financial year to date (as at 27 February 2012), the Department of Finance and Deregulation had paid \$3,508.47 for travel and expenses for the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to attend Community Cabinet meetings.
2. The Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities was accompanied by four ministerial staff members to the Community Cabinet meetings in this financial year to date at a cost of \$5,774.42.
3. Three departmental officers from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities attended Community Cabinet meetings to support the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in this financial year to date at a cost of \$2,947.42.
4. The total cost to the Minister's Office and the department for Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date was \$12,230.31.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD

**Question No:** 268

**Topic:** Portfolio wide - reviews

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written

**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

For this financial year to date:

1. How many Reviews are being undertaken?
2. What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded
3. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
4. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
5. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
6. What reviews are planned?
7. When will each of these reviews be concluded?

**Answer:**

1. Consolidated responses to questions one through seven are in the tables below.

***Current reviews this financial year to date:***

|   | <b>Name of Review</b>            | <b>Estimated completion date</b> | <b>Provided to Government</b>  | <b>Government Response</b> | <b>Estimated cost</b> |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Review of Caring for our Country | 31 March 2012                    | Provided to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | Yet to be determined       | \$192,354             |

|   |  |  |     |  |  |
|---|--|--|-----|--|--|
| 2 | Technical Audit of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Kakadu National Park Management Plan  | 31 March 2012  | N/A | The Kakadu Board of Management will consider the audit at their June 2012 Board Meeting.<br><br>Recommendations will not be responded to specifically, but considered during the development of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Kakadu National Park Management Plan during 2012-2014. | \$40,000   |
| 3 | Review of the Achievements and Lessons Learnt from the Water Smart Australia Program                                 | 30 June 2012   | N/A | Yet to be determined   | \$160,000  |
| 4 | The Review of the <i>Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989</i> and its associated regulations | December 2012 (conclusion of public phase of review) | N/A | Yet to be determined   | \$478,275<br><br>(the cost may vary significantly depending on issues raised and analysis required). |

**Concluded reviews:**

|   | <b>Name of Review</b>  | <b>Provided to Government</b>   | <b>Govt Response</b>  | <b>Estimated cost</b> |
|---|--|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Lapsing Program Review of the Regional Marine Planning Program   | December 2011   | No formal government response required  | \$30,000              |
| 2 | Review of the National Water Commission  | December 2011   | No formal response required. The government announced on 14 March 2012 that it would be introducing legislation to continue the NWC, subject to COAG consideration. | \$155,000             |
| 3 | Review of the Bureau of Meteorology's capacity to respond to future extreme weather and natural disaster events and to provide seasonal forecasting services | December 2011   | Yet to be determined  | \$131,000             |
| 4 | Science Review of the estimation of an Environmentally Sustainable Level of Take for the Murray-Darling Basin  | Review for Independent Authority not Government (Completed November 2011) | No formal government response required  | \$200,000             |

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question 269**  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – media monitoring **No:**  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11
3. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date?
  - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
  - b. What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12?
  - c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?
4. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date?
  - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
  - b. What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12?
  - c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

***Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and Bureau of Meteorology***

1-2. The total cost to the department for media monitoring services from 2007-2011 was \$2,827,249. There is no additional cost to the Minister's Office as the department operates with a single account.

Cost of media monitoring services (GST inclusive):

- 2007-08: \$753,873
- 2008-09: \$663,026
- 2009-10: \$774,634

- 2010-11: \$635,716

3-4. The department's estimated budget for media monitoring services in 2011-12 is \$495,000 GST inclusive. Expenditure in the financial year to 28 February 2012 is \$311,781.41 GST inclusive.

There is no additional cost to the Minister's Office as the department operates with a single account. AAP Pty Ltd is the department's current primary service provider. Media Monitors was the department's primary service provider from 2007-2011.

***Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)***

1. Not applicable to GBRMPA.
2. Total cost for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 was \$157,408.
  - 2007-08: \$32,865
  - 2008-09: \$31,889
  - 2009-10: \$54,989 (Inc. \$16,033 for Internet Alerts on Shen Neng grounding)
  - 2010-11: \$37,665
3. Not applicable to GBRMPA.
4. Total cost for 2011-12 to date is \$22,121.15.
  - a. Media Monitors.
  - b. Estimated budget for 2011-12 is \$60,000.
  - c. Total spent on service to date is \$22,121 .

***National Water Commission***

1. Nil.
2. Cost of media monitoring services (ex GST):
  - 2007-08: \$106,446.91
  - 2008-09: \$118,058.11
  - 2009-10: \$139,976.83
  - 2010-11: \$163,036.33
3. Nil.
4. Cost of media monitoring services 2011-12 financial year to date \$72,050 (ex GST).
  - a. Media Monitoring.
  - b. \$137,000.00.
  - c. \$72,050.16.

***Murray Darling Basin Authority***

1-3. See departmental response.

4. Please see response below;

a. Media Monitors Pty Ltd.

b. The estimated budget for the financial year 2011-12 is \$100,000.

c. 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012, the MDBA has spent \$61,925.



**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question No:** 270  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – commissioned reports  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. How many reports were commissioned by the government in your portfolio in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
2. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
  - a. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
  - b. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer:**

1. All reports commissioned in the portfolio in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 have been addressed in previous Estimates hearings and are on the public record. Refer to Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011 question number 235.
2. No new reports have been commissioned by the Australian Government in the portfolio this financial year to date.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question 271**  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – travel costs **No:**  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
2. For the financial year to date, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
3. For the financial year to date, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.
4. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.
5. Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.
6. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the cost per employee.
7. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as their Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

**Answer:**

***The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities***

1. Costs of official travel by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). Information about destinations and the cost of travel undertaken is tabled in the Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The report also includes car transport costs as advised by other departments in respect of ministers and parliamentary secretaries. It is not possible to individually report on the separate items listed in the question. Finance does not meet the cost of security, gifts, alcohol or entertainment. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance website. The reports are available at <http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/parliamentarians-reporting/index.html>.
2. Costs met by Finance for overseas travel by any accompanying staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are also included in the report tabled in the Parliament every six months titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance website - <http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/parliamentarians-reporting/index.html>.
3. The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to these questions without substantial diversion of departmental resources.
4. Please see **Attachment A** for travel data from 1 July 2011 to 13 February 2012 noting that:
  - this does not include \$30,496.04 of accommodation costs that were paid via credit card (and not with an allowance);
  - the department does not capture type of travel (economy/business class) data in its information systems;
  - the department provided meals and incidental allowances to employees undertaking official travel. The department does not pay for travel related alcohol, gifts or entertainment;
  - the department paid the exact cost of all accommodation related to official international travel;
  - the department provided accommodation allowance to non-SES employees undertaking official domestic travel; and
  - until October 2011, the department provided accommodation allowance to SES employees undertaking official domestic travel. From October 2011, the department paid exact costs of this accommodation, in line with Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations rates.
5. The department is unable to comment on whether specific trips were by the most direct route as detailed business requirements of travel are not captured in its information management systems. However, all official departmental travel is booked taking into account operational and business requirements, and approved by an FMA delegate in accordance with departmental and Australian Government policy, including the Department of Finance and Deregulation Circulars:
  - Finance Circular 2009/10 Use of the Lowest Practical Fare for Official Domestic Air Travel.

- Finance Circular 2009/11 Best Fare of the Day for International Official Air Travel.

6. See table below.

| <b>Qantas Club memberships: Cost \$260 per year</b>     |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| <b>APS Classification</b>                               | <b>Number</b> | <b>Reason</b>                             |
| SES   | 50            | Entitlement                               |
| EL2   | 3             | Travels often on behalf of the department |
| EL2   | 1             | Australian Workplace Agreement            |
| EL1   | 6             | Travels often on behalf of the department |
| EL1   | 1             | Australian Workplace Agreement            |
| APS   | 2             | Travels often on behalf of the department |
|   |               | <b>Total = 63</b>                         |
| <b>Virgin Australia membership: Cost \$249 per year</b> |               |   |
| <b>APS Classification</b>                               | <b>Number</b> | <b>Reason</b>                             |
| SES   | 2             | Entitlement                               |
|   |               | <b>Total = 2</b>                          |

7. The department is unable to provide a definitive response as our records system does not support capture of this information, but it is not departmental practice for Executive Assistants to accompany SES on their travel.

### ***Director of National Parks***

1. Not applicable.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. From the 1 July 2011 until 13 February 2012 National Parks had spent a total of \$513,526.85 on travel. For a breakdown of costs associated with this travel please see **Attachment B**.
5. See departmental response.
6. A Qantas Club membership is made to one officer, Executive Level 1, from National Parks. The membership was provided as the employee is required to undertake a significant amount of travel. The cost of this membership is \$665 (gst incl) for a two year membership.
7. See departmental response.

### ***Sydney Harbour Federation Trust***

1. Not applicable.
2. Not applicable.
3. No Trust staff have accompanied the Minister or Parliamentary secretary on their travel this financial year to date.
4. Overseas: Nil.

#### Domestic

- Airfares (Economy) \$5,783.16
- Travel allowance/accommodation \$2,563.44
- Motor vehicle allowances \$1,981.68
- Taxis \$2,873.50
- **Total domestic travel costs \$13,201.78**

5. Yes, the most direct is taken.
6. No.
7. No.

### ***National Water Commission (NWC)***

1. Not applicable.
2. Not applicable.
3. No NWC staff have accompanied the minister or parliamentary secretary on their travel this financial year to date.
4. The NWC does not centrally record details of all travel undertaken by NWC staff. Providing specific details for each travel event would involve an extensive manual process and therefore, in the context of existing workloads, an unreasonable diversion of resources. The NWC does not provide staff who travel with a travelling allowance (accommodation and meal costs are paid using a staff corporate credit card). The NWC does not record entertainment separately (part of official hospitality) or link gifts to particular trips. The following information is provided on travel expenditure to 31 January 2012 (excluding GST):

- Airfares domestic \$205,125.71
- Airfares international \$28,011.11
- Taxi's and car hire \$36,839.72
- Accommodation and subsistence \$85,849.43
- **TOTAL \$355,825.97**

5. All employees are travelling within the government's lowest practical fare policy.

6. All SES staff are entitled to NWC-sponsored membership of a lounge club. Non-SES staff who are estimated to travel at least on 12 occasions in any year may be allowed NWC-sponsored membership of a lounge club for that year where the staff member is required to access business facilities. The following information is provided on lounge club memberships.

| <b>Classification</b> | <b>No. of employees</b> | <b>Cost per employee</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| APS6                  | 2                       | \$459.06                 |
| EL1                   | 6                       | \$459.06                 |
| EL2                   | 6                       | \$459.06                 |

7. No support or administrative staff have accompanied SES on travel.

***Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)***

1. Not applicable.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. For this financial year to date (31 January 2012), the travel cost incurred by GBRMPA staff was \$1,087,247 and is detailed below. Travel was for GBRMPA business.

*Domestic*

Airfares

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Business                | \$110,954 |
| Economy                 | \$387,144 |
| Taxis                   | \$59,690  |
| Motor vehicle allowance | \$4,985   |
| Vehicle hire            | \$24,392  |
| Travel allowance        | \$212,564 |
| Accommodation           | \$177,259 |

*International*

Airfares

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Business          | \$76,440 |
| Economy           | \$11,923 |
| Travel allowances | \$17,774 |
| Accommodation     | \$3,656  |

Overseas hire car expenses \$466

5. Yes.
6. Yes, 12.

| <b>Classification</b> | <b>No of employees</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| APS6                  | 6                      |
| EL1                   | 5                      |
| EL2                   | 1                      |

7. No.

***Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)***

1. Not applicable.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Please refer to **Attachment C**.
5. Please refer to **Attachment C**.
6. Currently 16 staff have AAD Qantas Club membership which was paid for in 2009 under the then existing Australian Workplace Agreement entitlement. These will not be renewed by the AAD. Membership is provided to those high frequency flying staff to assist in their productivity whilst travelling. One staff member has a Virgin Australia Club membership that cost \$250 which was paid for this current financial year.

| <b>Classification</b> | <b>No of Employees</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| APS6                  | 1                      |
| EL1                   | 5                      |
| EL2                   | 10                     |
| SES2                  | 2                      |

7. No

**Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)**

1. Not applicable.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. The expenditure on travel undertaken by MDBA employees from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 is as follows:

*Domestic*

Airfares

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Business                                    | \$108,435 |
| Economy                                     | \$534,155 |
| Accommodation                               | \$163,739 |
| Land-based travel (inc taxi, mileage, etc.) | \$175,007 |
| Travel allowance                            | \$253,356 |

*International*

Airfares

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Travel allowances | \$375 |
|-------------------|-------|

Accommodation

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$1,235,067</b> |
|--------------|--------------------|

5. Employees travel on the route which most effectively meets business requirements.
6. As at 31 January 2012:

| <b>Qantas Club memberships: The first year cost for a Qantas Club membership is \$460 with subsequent yearly renewals costing \$260.</b> |               |  |
|--|---------------|--|
| <b>APS Classification</b>  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Reason</b>  |
| SES  | 9             | SES officers are entitled to membership with one airline lounge membership as a condition of their contract of employment.   |
| EL2  | 19            | Non-SES officers are provided membership when they are required to travel on official business frequently and where such membership will assist the staff member in effectively performing their duties. |
| EL1  | 11            |  |
| APS 6  | 3             |  |
|  |               | <b>Total = 42</b>  |



- Support staff travel with SES officers when required to effectively conduct business. There have been no instances where an Executive Assistant has travelled with an SES officer in the current financial year.

***Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau)***

- Not applicable.
- Not applicable.
- Not applicable.
- For the financial year to date (as at 29 February 2012), the travel cost incurred by the Bureau is \$6,758,039.15 as detailed below.

Food, Accommodation and Beverage details are not available as the Bureau pays a travel allowance to employees.

*Domestic*

Airfares

|              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Economy      | \$1,358,171.85        |
| Business     | \$97,664.60           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$1,455,836.45</b> |

Ground fares \$446,263.33

Vehicle hire \$77,562.24

Total vehicle hire and ground fares \$523,825.57

Travel allowance \$2,860,763.67

*International*

Airfares

|              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Economy      | \$606,833.73          |
| Business     | \$535,280.92          |
| First        | \$4,870.72            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$1,146,985.37</b> |

Travel allowance \$766,792.80

Passports and visas \$3,835.29

Total travel allowance and passports and visas \$770,628.09

**Total travel for the Bureau as at 29 February 2012 \$6,758,039.15**

- All Bureau employees take the most direct flight according to destination.

6. All airline memberships must meet the Bureau of Meteorology eligibility requirements.

The Bureau of Meteorology has airline memberships as shown in the following tables:

| <b>Qantas Club Membership @<br/>\$260pp per annum</b> |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Classification</b>                                 | <b>Number of<br/>employees</b> |
| APS 2   | 2                              |
| APS 3   | 2                              |
| APS4  | 1                              |
| APS5  | 12                             |
| APS6  | 33                             |
| EL1   | 54                             |
| EL2 (Upper)   | 29                             |
| EL2 (Lower)   | 42                             |
| SES   | 11                             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>186</b>                     |

| <b>Virgin Australia @ \$249pp per<br/>annum</b> |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Classification</b>                           | <b>Number of<br/>employees</b> |
| EL1   | 1                              |
| SES   | 1                              |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>2</b>                       |

| <b>Koru Club Membership @<br/>\$322.00pp per annum</b> |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Classification</b>                                  | <b>Number of<br/>employees</b> |
| EL1  | 2                              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2</b>                       |

7. One staff member travelled as the secretariat to the Executive, to facilitate meetings and minute the meeting outcomes. This staff member has travelled on four occasions in the current financial year, and the cost of this travel was \$4,188.22.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

**Program: Division or Agency:** Corporate: PCD **Question 272**  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – legal costs **No:**  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

**Answer:**

***Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities including the Director of National Parks:***

1. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the department) spent \$817,227.36 on the salaries of internal lawyers in the Legal Section, Governance and Legal Branch for the period 1 July 2011 to 20 February 2012. In addition, the Director of National Parks spent \$137,056.53 on the salaries of internal lawyers in their Legal Section for the period 1 July 2011 to 20 February 2012.

The Legal Section does not generally disclose the content of legal advice it provides to the department. It is important for any government to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such, only a total figure for the salaries of the lawyers in the Legal Section has been provided.

2. The Australian Government Solicitor is treated the same as all other Legal Service Providers on the department's Legal Services Panel. Please see the response to Question three below.
3. The department's expenditure on external legal services across its Legal Services Panel and Water Conveyancing Panel for the period 1 July 2011 to 20 February 2012 is set out in the table below. Please note that these are amounts actually paid during this period (not billed), and may relate to services incurred several months prior.

The Australian Government does not generally disclose the content of legal advice received by the government or its agencies. It is important for any government to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such, only total figures for legal services paid for have been provided.

Please also note that the department, the Director of National Parks, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority are all required each year to report on their legal services expenditure under the *Legal Services Directions 2005*. These reports are published on the agency websites each year.

| Total legal fees paid by the department to the Legal Service Provider from 1 July 2011 to 20 February 2012 |                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Legal Service Provider   | GST exclusive         | GST inclusive         |
| Australian Government Solicitor  | \$2,000,518.26        | \$2,200,570.09        |
| Lawlab   | \$1,187,895.45        | \$1,306,684.99        |
| Kemp Strang  | \$255,357.40          | \$280,856.94          |
| Minter Ellison   | \$238,014.00          | \$261,815.46          |
| Hunt and Hunt  | \$161,053.26          | \$177,158.59          |
| Norton Rose  | \$124,404.24          | \$136,844.66          |
| Blake Dawson   | \$50,729.69           | \$55,802.38           |
| Clayton Utz  | \$40,641.50           | \$44,705.65           |
| DLA Piper  | \$35,726.40           | \$39,299.04           |
| Sparke Helmore   | \$19,836.31           | \$21,819.94           |
| Maddocks   | \$0.00                | \$0.00                |
| Mallesons  | \$0.00                | \$0.00                |
| PriceWaterhouseCoopers   | \$0.00                | \$0.00                |
| Baker and McKenzie   | \$0.00                | \$0.00                |
| Corrs Chambers Westgarth   | \$0.00                | \$0.00                |
| Myer Vandenberg  | \$0.00                | \$0.00                |
| Herbert Geer   | \$0.00                | \$0.00                |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$4,114,176.51</b> | <b>\$4,525,557.74</b> |

4. The department's legal spend is captured in the response to Question three above.

***The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA):***

| <b>Legal Service Provider</b>   | <b>Total legal fees paid from 1 July 2011 to 20 February 2012 (GST inclusive)</b>              |
|---|--|
| Agency salaries on lawyers from within the agency's legal section, governance, legal or other branches.               | \$306,330  |
| Australian Government Solicitor (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed) | \$136, 937   |
| Private Firms   | Nil  |
| Other (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed)                           | \$2,340 – for Federal Register of Legislative Instruments compilation and registration of fees |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$445,607</b>   |

***The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (the Authority):***

| <b>Legal Service Provider</b>   | <b>Total legal fees paid from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 (GST inclusive)</b>  |
|---|---|
| Agency salaries on lawyers from within the agency's legal section, governance, legal or other branches.               | \$236,113   |
| Australian Government Solicitor (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed) | \$702,536   |
| Private Firms (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed).                  | \$35,240  |
| Other (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed)                           | \$8,934 - Fees paid to Attorney-General's Department, Office of International Law |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$982,823</b>  |

***The Sydney Harbour Trust Federation (The Trust):***

| <b>Legal Service Provider</b>   | <b>Total legal fees paid from 1 July 2011 to 20 February 2012 (GST inclusive)</b> |
|---|---|
| Agency salaries on lawyers from within the agency's legal section, governance, legal or other branches.               | Nil   |
| Australian Government Solicitor (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed) | \$10,455  |
| Private Firms (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed)                   | \$121,003   |
| Other (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed)                           | \$29,725  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$161,183</b>  |

***National Water Commission (the Commission):***

| <b>Legal Service Provider</b>   | <b>Total legal fees paid from 1 July 2011 to 20 February 2012 (GST inclusive)</b> |
|---|---|
| Agency salaries on lawyers from within the agency's legal section, governance, legal or other branches.               | Nil   |
| Australian Government Solicitor (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed) | \$19,441  |
| Private Firms   | Nil   |
| Other   | Nil   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$19,441</b>   |

***Bureau of Meteorology:***

| <b>Legal Service Provider</b>   | <b>Total legal fees paid from 1 July 2011 to 20 February 2012 (GST inclusive)</b> |
|---|---|
| Agency salaries on lawyers from within the agency's legal section, governance, legal or other branches.               | \$272,148*  |
| Australian Government Solicitor (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed) | \$140,522   |
| Private Firms (Note this figure is the amount actually paid during the reporting period not billed)                   | \$59,151  |
| Other   | Nil   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$471,821</b>  |

\*This includes \$157,945 in salary costs that do not attract a GST, and \$114,203 in sourced legal staff cost which does include GST. This staff member is seconded from AGS and is working as a staff member of the Bureau of Meteorology, but the Bureau is being charged the staff member's costs as a contractor.