

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 28
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: World Heritage Committee - representation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 07 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

In relation to representations made by the Australian Government to relating to the June 2014 meeting of the World Heritage Committee (WHC),

1. How many Departmental officials have been involved in formal and informal meetings with representatives of the WHC Secretariat and/ or representatives of WHC members to date in the lead up to this meeting?
2. Have Departmental or Ministerial staff had any correspondence or any meetings with the World Heritage Centre? If so, please provide a breakdown including dates.
3. Have Departmental or Ministerial staff had any correspondence or any meetings with the International Union for Conservation of Nature? If so, please provide a breakdown including dates.
4. Have Departmental or Ministerial staff had any correspondence or any meetings with the International Council on Monuments and Sites? If so, please provide a breakdown including dates.
5. How does the current advocacy effort compare to the 2013 and 2012 meetings of the Committee? Please provide a breakdown of resources committed including staff and expenditure.
6. Please provide a breakdown of the number of meetings held between Departmental and Ministerial staff and foreign representatives in relation to the Committee's deliberations in 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date.

Answer:

World Heritage Committee concerns are addressed as part of Australia's general engagement with UNESCO. Only additional travel costs are identified.

1. Six

2.

Date	Type
9/8/2013	Letter
13/8/2013	Letter
21/8/2013	Letter
18/9/2013	Meeting
20/9/2013	Letter
16/10/2013	Letter
18/10/2013	Meeting
1/11/2013	Letter
10-30/11/2013	Meeting
15/11/2013	Letter
18/12/2013	Letter (Minister)
18/12/2013	Letter
13/1/2014	Letter
15-25/1/2014	Meeting
17/1/2014	Letter
20/1/2014	Letter
30/1/2014	Letter (Minister)
31/1/2014	Letter (Minister)
17/2/2014	Letter
17-22/3/2014	Meeting

3.

Date	Type
18/9/2013	Meeting
18/10/2013	Meeting
22-28/11/2013	Meeting
17 & 20/1/2014	Meeting
17-22/3/2014	Meeting

4. No

5.

2011/12

Date	Topic	Resources
April 2012	Informal discussions with World Heritage Centre and IUCN on upcoming Committee decisions, Paris	\$9,729 One person
May 2012	Workshop on Australia's work on the future of the Convention and informal discussions on the Committee's draft decision for 2012, Paris	-
June 2012	36 th session of the World Heritage Committee, St Petersburg	\$41,493 Three people

2012/13

Date	Topic	Resources
24-25 May 2013	Informal discussions with World Heritage Centre director on draft decision 2013 (side meeting after attending Wildlife trade meetings in London)	\$678 One person
15-25 June 2013	37 th session of the World Heritage Committee, Cambodia	\$22,813 Four people

2013/14

Date	Topic	Resources
18 September 2013	Informal discussions on Committee decisions, Geneva (side meeting during staff leave in Europe)	\$287 One person
18 October 2013	Informal discussions on Committee decisions, Paris (side meeting after attending the 2nd Global Marine World Heritage Site Managers Workshop and the 8 th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol)	-
10-30 November 2013	UNESCO 19 th General Assembly Meeting, Paris	-
15-21 January 2014	Strategic assessment workshops and Open Ended Working Group meeting on regional representation in the World Heritage Committee, Gland and Paris	\$19,062 Two people
17-22 March 2014	Open Ended Working Group meeting on regional representation in the World Heritage Committee, Paris	-

6. The World Heritage Committee is an expert decision making body. The Department's experts in heritage matters and the World Heritage Convention maintain ongoing formal and informal communication with the Committee, the World Heritage Centre and advisory bodies to the Committee. Ongoing contact ensures that the Department is able to present the progress Australia is making against the Committee's recommendations and to understand any emerging Committee deliberations. The Department's interactions with the Committee, Centre staff and advisory body representatives are both prudent and efficient. The Department minimises costs by scheduling appropriate meetings with Committee members, the Centre and/or advisory bodies in the margins of other international fora on other topics. As a result of this approach, separate meetings cannot be specified as they are often part of other international engagement designed to meet other government objectives.