

**Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts**

2006-07 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings

Environment and Heritage portfolio

Questions on Notice—Tuesday, 31 October 2006

QoN	ECITA Page No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Agency/ Division	Rec'd
1	Written QoN	Carr	EPBC	How many times has the Minister for the Environment and Heritage failed to meet his statutory obligations for decisions under the EPBC Act? What were those circumstances? What sections of the Act do those circumstances relate to?	AWD	17/01/07
2	ECITA 111 - 112	Carr	Nuclear Energy	Has your department made a submission to Ziggy Switkowski's inquiry? Are we able to get a copy of that submission?	AWD	17/01/07 + 3 attach'ts
3	Written QoN	Carr	Rising sea levels	Has the Government investigated the possibility of relocating residents of low lying Torres Strait Islands?	ILAD	25/01/07
4	Written QoN	Carr	Rising sea levels	What action will the Government undertake to address increased erosion in the Torres Strait Islands?	ILAD	25/01/07
5	Written QoN (also see ECITA 108)	Carr	Rising sea levels	In February Estimates, the Department advised that no specific research or policy work had been undertaken on the impact of rising sea levels on the Torres Strait Islands. Since then, has any work been commissioned? If not, why not?	ILAD	25/01/07
6	Written QoN	Nash	Bio-Fuels	Could DEH officials advise the committee as to progress on their studies into biofuels as they relate to; vehicle testing on ethanol blends, the RVP studies and E10 health studies and related matters? Could officials advise the committee of preliminary findings of these studies?	EQD	09/02/06
7	ECITA 93	McLucas	GBRMPA Staffing levels	Senator McLUCAS—I always ask questions about staffing, and I think you would be disappointed if I did not. Do you have an update on the staffing for the committee, please, Ms Chadwick?	GBRMPA	17/01/07
8	ECITA 93	McLucas	GBRMPA Visitor levels	Senator McLUCAS—How is Reef HQ travelling? Ms Chadwick—Given the work that has been done by Mr Barrett I will defer to him, if that is acceptable to the committee. Mr Barrett—The aquarium is functioning very well at the moment. Our results for the first quarter of this year are eight per cent up on revenue compared to last year, and we are currently tracking very well. Senator McLUCAS—That is good. You will provide us with a hand-up document	GBRMPA	17/01/07

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				that reflects that? Mr Barrett—Of visitor numbers? Certainly.		
9	ECITA 98	Joyce	GBRMPA Compliance	<p>Senator JOYCE—How many of them would be in policing roles, monitoring and checking? Ms Chadwick—I could give you the breakdown. We have available a list of the areas in which those people reside as members of staff, and I can easily make that available. If you wish to ask about particular categories, I would be happy, with the minister's agreement, to provide you with a more detailed breakdown.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—The monitoring of fishing, the policing of fishing and checking whether people are breaking the law as it now stands. Ms Chadwick—I am happy to do that but, as I explained to Senator McLucas, that is an activity that currently involves many other agencies. For example, most potential sightings and apprehensions of people doing the wrong thing come, in fact, from Coastwatch.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—I was more interested in how many of the 190 staff that you have are involved in that role or have that as part of their job description. Ms Chadwick—I am happy to provide that information.</p>	GBRMPA	17/01/07
10	ECITA 99	Joyce	GBRMPA Compliance	<p>Senator JOYCE—How are the issues that are brought up by commercial and recreational fishermen dealt with? Do you have the ability to meet any of their requests or to find a common ground? Ms Chadwick—Absolutely. If I could build on the minister's comments, while I have said that I am more than happy, with the minister's support, to provide you with a breakdown of staff and their responsibilities, it would be completely inappropriate and wrong to talk about the people who work in compliance and enforcement as the ones holding a big stick as opposed to the ones liaising because, of all the tens of thousands of people who use the reef year by year, there have only, in fact, been 200 people apprehended. Of those, 112 got an advisory letter. So the prospect of a great big stick and people being involved in enforcement as opposed to educating, liaising and talking with people is completely incorrect. So I would urge you to look at it in that context.</p>	GBRMPA	09/02/06
11	ECITA 100	Joyce	GBRMPA Indigenous Issues	Senator JOYCE—How many of the 190 staff are involved in dealing with Indigenous issues?	GBRMPA	17/01/07

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				Ms Chadwick—Within our Indigenous liaison unit—I do not have the numbers in front of me, but I am more than happy to provide you with that information; and hasten to add that it is not just the people in that Indigenous liaison unit who deal with Indigenous people. There are many people, including me.		
12	Written QoN	Carr	Australian Heritage Council	Please provide information on attendance by all Australian Heritage Council members for all Australian Heritage Council meetings over the past three years.	HD	06/02/07
13	Written QoN	Carr	Australian Heritage Council	Have any Australian Heritage Council members missed two or more consecutive meetings? If so, whom and when?	HD	06/02/07
14	ECITA 118	Carr	World Heritage - tentative nomination list	I would like an indicative list of possible nominations for World Heritage listing. How many do you have on your list? Since there are two sites, can you tell me when the convict sites were put on the list?	HD	17/01/07
15	ECITA 119 - 120	Carr	World Heritage - tentative nomination list	<p>Senator CARR—Thank you. What I am interested to know is: when was the last time the list was reviewed with a view to adding sites?</p> <p>Mr Burnett—It would be quite some years. We would have to take that on notice as to exactly when. It is quite common for countries to go for quite some years before reviewing their tentative list. ...</p> <p>Mr Burnett—We are talking about back into the 1990s.</p> <p>Senator CARR—That is what I am saying. There was a considerable number prior to 1996. How many since 1996 have been added to the list? ...</p> <p>Senator CARR—We are at cross-purposes here. What I am interested to know is about sites that are going on the indicative list, whereas you are providing me with advice on what happens after they are on the indicative list. Can you explain to me how you get a site on the indicative list?</p> <p>Mr Burnett—There is no set process for doing it. From time to time, the department would provide advice to government and the government would decide whether to put forward some places for the indicative list. ...</p> <p>Senator CARR—When was the list last updated?</p> <p>Mr Burnett—As I said, it goes back into the 1990s, I think. We will have to take it on notice.</p>	HD	17/01/07
16	ECITA	Carr	Greenhouse	Senator CARR—It has been put to me	ICED/	25/01/07

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	114-115		program spending	<p>that, based on material provided—and I acknowledge that there are 12 programs, or subprograms if you like, within the broader defined greenhouse gas programs—that if we go back from the period 1998-99 there is a 42 per cent underspend; 1999-2000, an eight per cent underspend; 2000-01, a 65 per cent underspend; 2001-02, a 64 per cent underspend; 2002-03, a 17 per cent underspend; 2003-04, a 13 per cent underspend; 2004-05, a 10 per cent underspend. Last year it was only two per cent, so I suppose you might say that you are getting closer to the mark. Can you confirm any of those figures?</p> <p>Mr Sterland—We can take the percentages on notice. In one of my first estimates in this position, there was a question that covered much of this territory. I can give you the number.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Would you do that, or perhaps give me a copy of it?</p> <p>Mr Sterland—That was in terms of variations from budget. In almost all of those cases, funding was rephased and rescheduled.</p> <p>Senator CARR—What I will do is: I have got a particular question on notice that goes to the spending for those 12 programs that I have mentioned. Could you have a look at that and provide me with advice on that and also on the matter I have just raised with you in terms of those particular figures that I have put to you.</p>	ILAD	
17	Written QoN	Carr	Greenhouse program spending	<p>Can you confirm there was a 42% underspend in greenhouse programs by the Federal Government in 1998-99?</p> <p>Can you confirm there was a 65% underspend in greenhouse programs in 2000-2001? Can you confirm there was a 64% underspend in greenhouse programs in 2001-2002?</p>	ICED/ILAD	25/01/07
18	Written QoN	Carr	Greenhouse program spending	Can you confirm that between 1998 and 2006, there has been a 36% underspend in greenhouse programs by the Federal Government?	ICED/ILAD	09/02/06
19	Written QoN	Carr	Greenhouse program spending	(1) For the Australian Greenhouse Office and any other climate change programs in the Department, provide the projected uncommitted Commonwealth financial contribution for administered and departmental items for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the amounts spent for administered and departmental items for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.	ICED/ILAD	09/02/06
20	Written	Carr	Greenhouse	(2) List all programs that go to make up	ICED/	09/02/06

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	QoN		program spending	the Australian Greenhouse Office in the 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statement. List all other climate change programs administered by the Department.	ILAD	
21	Written QoN	Carr	Greenhouse program spending	(3) For each of those programs in (2) what are the most recent estimates of program spending or revenue 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and what were the outcomes for each in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06?	ICED/ ILAD	09/02/06
22	Written QoN	Carr	Greenhouse program spending	(4) For each of those programs in (1) what are the dollar amounts for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 that are obligated or otherwise forward committed, contractually or otherwise?	ICED/ ILAD	09/02/06
23	Written QoN	Stephens	AGO budget / spending	Questions go to the AGO funding following revelations that the AGO has underspent its Budget by \$362 million over 8 years. a) Over each year of the last 8 financial years, what funding was allocated to the AGO? b) During each of those years, has the appropriation been fully expended? c) If not, what happened to the underspent funds? d) Have funds been transferred from AGO? e) If so, where have the funds been transferred? And how much?	ICED/ ILAD	08/02/06
24	ECITA 107-108	Carr	Clean Development Mechanism	Senator CARR—I have some general questions to begin with for the department. Minister, following that previous discussion, could you name any of the Australian companies that have actually accessed the CDM funding? Senator Ian Campbell—I am certain that Roaring 40s are. Senator CARR—That is because of the work in China. Senator Ian Campbell—We are talking about China. Senator CARR—All right. Which Australian companies are— Senator Ian Campbell—Are accessing CDM in China? Senator CARR—Yes. Senator Ian Campbell—I guess we could get that information. Senator CARR—Could you do that regarding the Australian companies? Senator Ian Campbell—I would probably ask the industry association and the Renewable Energy Generators Association.	ILAD	25/01/07
25	ECITA 117	Carr	UN Climate Change Report	Senator CARR—Yes, you have made that perfectly clear four times. I have asked for a copy of the department's	ILAD	25/01/07 + 1 attach't

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				response to this UN committee [UN Climate Change Convention Secretariat]. What is your answer, Minister? Senator Ian Campbell—Do you want a copy of the letter? You can have it.		
26	Written QoN	Carr	Whales	What are the components of the Government's Save Our Whales public education campaign?	MD/PCD	05/02/07
27	Written QoN	Carr	Whales	What is the funding allocation for the Save Our Whales website? Over what time period?	MD/PCD	25/01/07
28	Written QoN	Carr	Whales	What is the funding allocation for the Save Our Whales wrist bands? Over what time period?	MD/PCD	25/01/07
29	Written QoN	Carr	NHT/NAP	For the Natural Heritage Trust, the National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality and any other natural resource management programs in the Department, provide the projected uncommitted Commonwealth financial contribution for administered and departmental items for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the amounts spent for administered and departmental items for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.	NRMPD	06/02/07
30	Written QoN	Carr	NHT/NAP	1. List all programs or sub-programs that go to make up the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality in the 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statement. List all other natural resource management programs administered jointly or fully by the Department. • For each of those programs in (1) what are the most recent estimates of program spending or revenue 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and what were the outcomes for each in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06? • For each of those programs in (1) what are the dollar amounts for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 that are obligated or otherwise forward committed, contractually or otherwise?	NRMPD	06/02/07
31	Written QoN	Carr	ORER	For the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator please provide the projected Commonwealth financial contribution for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the amounts spent for 2003-04 and 2004-05.	ORER	05/02/07
32	Written QoN	Ludwig	Annual Reports	1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament?	PCD Lead Dept & Agencies	17/01/07 -replaced 25/01/07
33	Written QoN	Ludwig	Annual Reports	2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate: a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by.	PCD Lead Dept & Agencies	25/01/07

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				<p>b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation. ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe? <p>c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901? If so, could the department provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension. ii. The reason given for granting the extension. iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted. iv. A copy of the Minister's statement. <p>d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted. ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report. 		
34	Written QoN	Ludwig	Possible PPQs	<p>With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Minister's on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the department/agency provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06). 2. The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at. 3. The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities. 4. The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3. 	PCD	05/02/07
35	Written	Ludwig	Legal	What sum did the department spend	PCD Lead	17/01/07

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	QoN		Services Expenditures	during 2005-2006 on external (a) barristers and (b) solicitors (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).	Dept & Agencies	
36	Written QoN	Ludwig	Legal Services Expenditures	What sum did the department spend on internal legal services.	PCD Lead Dept & Agencies	17/01/07
37	Written QoN	Ludwig	Legal Services Expenditures	What is the department's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006- 2007.	PCD Lead Dept & Agencies	05/02/07