

RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO
Budget Estimates 2010–11 (May-June 2010)

Oral Questions on Notice from Hearing on Tuesday 01 June 2010

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Disposal of the West Atlas rig</i>							
BR1	Senator Siewert	DRET	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Can I quickly move on to the issue of the disposal of the West Atlas rig, which was destroyed in the fire. What is the normal process for dealing with that? What is the process that is going to be undertaken for that particular rig?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Basically that is an ongoing process. Essentially, PTTEP are seeking the appropriate regulatory approvals to dispose of the rig, including from NOPSA as the safety authority, and that process is going forward.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—What is the time line for that? Why is it PTTEP rather than Seadrill, because the West Atlas rig is not owned by PTTEP.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—The PTTEP had contracted Seadrill. They have taken responsibility for that and, as I said to you, it is a process going forward.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—When will that be completed? Where is it likely to be—</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Timing is uncertain, but certainly they are trying to do that as quickly as possible, obviously.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Sorry, I am not trying to be provocative. Is it within the next six months? Is it within the next two months?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I would have to take that on notice. My advice is that it would be in the next six to 12 months.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Can you tell me where they are applying to dispose of it?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I cannot answer that question at this stage.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—You cannot because you do not</p>	E27-E28	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>know or because— Mr Hartwell—We have not been informed. Senator SIEWERT—Who would I ask to find out that information? Mr Hartwell—We can take that on notice and be in contact with PTTEP. They are yet to submit their final plans on that. Senator SIEWERT—Thank you for that.</p>				
<i>Drivers of energy price increases</i>							
BR2	Senator Pratt	DRET	<p>Mr Morling—As a rule of thumb, wholesale energy costs are about 40 per cent of a final retail bill, network costs are about 50 per cent of a retail bill and retail operating costs and margins are around 10 per cent of a retail bill. Yes, prices have been rising and to a large degree these prices have been driven by investment in network infrastructure to meet both reliability issues and increasing demand. If you like I can give you a brief overview of recent price increases in the jurisdictions, noting that the jurisdictions have their own processes for setting these prices and these are retail capped prices. It is always up to consumers to undertake a market contract if they so wish—except in Victoria, which has deregulated prices. Senator PRATT—I think that would be useful, but what I am interested in is how most states have had considerable increases in energy prices. I think that is widely on the record. Is the real driver behind that because the networks are regulated? Does that mean that, historically, the regulation has meant that there has been an underinvestment that now needs to be passed on to consumers? Mr Morling—It could be that. There are a number of reasons behind setting reliability standards, and that is an issue for each jurisdiction. It also can be because of increased demand, population growth and other issues, but it is certainly true to say that network charges have basically been the driver behind the majority of price increases.</p>	E28-E29	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>Senator PRATT—So it is a question of both demand and ageing infrastructure as key drivers on current electricity prices.</p> <p>Mr Morling—Yes. It is not always ageing infrastructure. It can be, but in particular areas or regions particular jurisdictions might decide to have higher reliability standards than they had previously, and that requires an increase in network expenditure.</p> <p>Senator PRATT—Thank you. If you would like to comment on recent price increases in various states, I would be pleased for you to do so, but as I understand it this is a question for the Commonwealth by virtue of trying to hold the states to account through assisting in the development of a National Energy Customer Framework. How will such a framework go about improving protections for vulnerable customers?</p> <p>Mr Morling—Sure. There are a couple of concepts mixed in. Perhaps I will put some of the price increases that we are aware of on notice and turn to the vulnerable customer issue.</p> <p>Senator PRATT—Thank you.</p>				
<i>Uranium Council staffing – Mark Chalmers compensation</i>							
BR3	Senator Ludlam	DRET	<p>Senator LUDLAM—While you are at it, can you tell us how many public servants work full time or part time—or maybe express it as FTEs—for the council?</p> <p>Ms Constable—There is no-one working directly for the council. We have a secretariat within the department which works on a whole range of uranium issues. Depending on the work of the council at any one time, it may be one person or it may be half a person. It really depends on the work at the time.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—Is that Mark Chalmers? Is that your secretary?</p> <p>Ms Constable—No, he is the chair of the council.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—How much is he paid for his work?</p> <p>Mr Sheldrick—Until recently Mark was undertaking that</p>	E29-E30	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			role without cost to us. More recently he has moved onto a small contract. I will need to take that on notice.				
<i>Exploration of Geological Basins</i>							
BR4	Senator Bushby	Geoscience Australia	<p>Senator BUSHBY—What percentage of prospective geological basins have been explored?</p> <p>Dr Foster—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Are there any prospective areas that have not been explored at all? I take it from your earlier answer, that that would be the 80 per cent. There may have been pre-existing—</p> <p>Dr Foster—Yes, there are areas that have been looked at in the past. There are areas that need to be relooked at.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Are there any prospective areas that have not been explored at all? I take it from your earlier answer, that that would be the 80 per cent. There may have been pre-existing—</p> <p>Dr Foster—Yes, there are areas that have been looked at in the past. There are areas that need to be relooked at.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Would it be roughly equivalent to the 80 per cent? The prospective areas that have never been explored would be less than 80 per cent?</p> <p>Dr Foster—I think it would be best to take that question on notice.</p>	E32	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Open pit mines and seismic activity</i>							
BR5	Senator Ludlam	Geoscience Australia	<p>Senator LUDLAM—You might want to take this on notice. I have been sent a paper by a geophysicist who is investigating a link between very large open pit mines and seismic activity—the super pit being one example and the Newcastle earthquake another and so on. Has Geoscience done any recent research into that area and can you provide us with a backgrounder or table any research on induced earthquakes around large open pits?</p> <p>Dr Pigram—No.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—No to everything?</p>	E33-E34	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>Dr Pigram—We have not done any research in the research between open pit mining and earthquake activity.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—Do you think that is maybe a worthwhile line of inquiry? Concerns have been raised around the Olympic Dam open pit as well. A fault runs right through where the mine void will be. I wonder whether that is something that you are interested in.</p> <p>Dr Pigram—It is not part of our work program, but I am happy to take it on notice.</p>				
<i>Earthquakes and tremors in Tennant Creek</i>							
BR6	Senator Ludlam	Geoscience Australia	<p>Senator LUDLAM—Can you provide us, within reason—so not every tiny little tremor—with an earthquake or tremor summary for the Tennant Creek area for the past 25 years or so? How difficult would that be to produce?</p> <p>Dr Drummond—You would be able to do that by simply querying the earthquakes on our website by putting in a latitude-longitude range, and it would return to you all of the earthquakes that we have recorded and noted in our system.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—All right, but the reason I am asking this is that recent data, at least, has not been returned to the website. So there have been a couple of moderately serious quakes in the area for which you do not have the data up online.</p> <p>Dr Drummond—It is possible that people would feel earthquakes but we would not record them.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—I mean ones that made the news.</p> <p>Dr Drummond—It is quite possible that people would feel them, and they would be reported in the news, but we would not record them on sufficient stations to be able to get an accurate location and magnitude. You need to record them on at least three to four stations to get an accurate location and magnitude.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—So do we have to wait 12 months for that site to be redeveloped before I would be able to obtain the sorts of records that I am asking for?</p>	E34-E35	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>Dr Drummond—You can get that information, that table of earthquakes, now. It is the ‘Plot a seismogram’ that is being redeveloped.</p>				
<i>Uranium Mining Best Practise Guide</i>							
BR7	Senator Ludlam	DRET	<p>Senator LUDLAM—Finally, I want to ask you briefly about the ISL best practice guide, which I have here: Australia’s <i>National In Situ Leach Uranium Mining Best Practice Guide</i>. Can you just tell us when this was commissioned and how much it cost to produce.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—I think that is a matter for the department rather than for Geoscience Australia.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—Okay. Your name is on the front cover, so—</p> <p>Mr Clarke—But it is for the department; we will respond to your question.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—All right; that is fine. It looks like there are actually four agencies listed here; can you just quickly sketch for us what Geoscience’s role was in the production of the report.</p> <p>Dr Pigram—Sure. We would have provided the geoscience component of the report. We have people who are expert in uranium mining, and in situ leach mining in particular, and we provide advice to the department in relation to those practices, both within Australia and through monitoring what happens globally. So we would have provided to the department the geoscience component of that report.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—So you were not actually the lead agency responsible for the publication of that report?</p> <p>Dr Pigram—I think we were.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—You were?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—But Geoscience Australia was the lead agency.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—Then I guess that is probably appropriate. Has it been peer reviewed?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—The report was prepared in consultation</p>	E35	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>with a wide range of interested stakeholders, including the industry and a number of people with research capacity in this area. It was coordinated by Geoscience Australia, but it had input from a very wide range of people who could bring expertise to the table.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—I have run the clock down and I know there are other folk wanting to come to the table, so, on notice, could you provide for me the names of those independent experts and academics who you drew on, who you mentioned there?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Sure.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—That would be much appreciated.</p>				
<i>Mildura Solar Projects</i>							
BR8	Senator Eggleston	Australian Solar Institute	<p>Senator EGGLESTON—I have a couple of questions. We had a large solar array, did we not, near Mildura? I believe that is no longer operating. Is that the case?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—I will start, but I will ask Mr Stone, if he is listening, to join us at the table. There have been a number of project announcements and there is a demonstration project in the Mildura vicinity. I am not aware of the status of those Mildura projects.</p> <p>Mr Stone—Are you referring to the solar systems project?</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—I thought there was a very large experimental solar power station near Mildura, and that that had ceased operating.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—There is a small demonstration project in the region that was related to the company Solar Systems. The department is not aware of its current operating status. A number of projects have been proposed for the area, including some in our current solar flagships program. For the sake of surety I will take your question on notice.</p>	E39	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Solar Grants Roadmap</i>							
BR9	Senator Milne	Australian Solar	Senator MILNE —For the assistance of the Senate committees for the next Senate estimates, could you	E40-E41	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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		Institute	<p>provide a road map of where all of these grants fit under the various programs so that we can call the right groups at the right time.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—I would be pleased to do that.</p> <p>CHAIR—While we are on that subject, thank you for the road map we did get, Mr Clarke, describing all the sections under outcomes 1 and 2. I think it was very useful for the committee and this would be a good extension.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—I do understand. There is of the order of a dozen things out there with program brands and I would be more than happy to provide you a map of where they all fit in the current structure. But they can all be mapped to those three things: flagships, ASI and ACRE.</p>				
<i>National Long Term Tourism Strategy</i>							
BR10	Senator Bushby	DRET	<p>Senator BUSHBY—We will move on to some questions with the department. I want to go through some areas of initiatives and management and try to get some ideas about how the budget is actually broken up with those for this year and for the coming four years after that. The first one is about the implementation of the Australian government’s National Long-Term Tourism Strategy. Do you have figures that tell us how much is spent by the department in that area for this financial year and following four years?</p> <p>Ms Madden—As you would be aware, the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy is the government’s key policy for the tourism industry. It is therefore natural that it is the core focus of the division’s work and also, importantly, a focus of Tourism Australia. Under the Tourism Ministers Council all state and territory governments have endorsed the strategy and the associated work plan.</p> <p>In terms of budget, at the last ministerial council since the last estimates, on 30 April, the tourism ministers announced \$2.2 million in collective action for implementing the strategy. That is on a COAG typical sharing arrangement where the Commonwealth has 50 per cent of the costs—</p>	E44	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>Senator BUSHBY—So that is \$1.1 million.</p> <p>Ms Madden—That is additional to the specific budget. Of course there is some in-work being done in the division, in state and territory governments, in Tourism Australia, and working with industry partners, that is over and above that \$2.2 million. But a specific initiative of the \$2.2 billion as announced by the tourism ministers in April—</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Does the division allocate internally in a budgetary sense how much time is done in kind by its officers for each of the various activities it undertakes?</p> <p>Ms Madden—We are able on notice to give you an estimate of that—</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—That would be good, and the same will apply to all of the other areas of activity of the Division that I am about to go through as well. That \$1.1 million, is that for this financial year?</p>				

Standing Committee on Tourism and the TMC

BR11	Senator Bushby	DRET	<p>Senator BUSHBY—What about program support funding for strategic support for the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism and the TMC?</p> <p>Ms Madden—That is done at the Commonwealth level. Yes, in my division there is a dedicated team and the section responsible for supporting both the Tourism Ministers Council and the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—And the program support funding? How much do you spend—</p> <p>Ms Madden—It is a departmental expense. It includes secretariat support to those two councils, the Tourism Ministers Council and the Standing Committee on Tourism.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Okay, so my question before about how much of the department's resources are actually spent in support of that program—</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, that would be picked up in that.</p>	E44-E45	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
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			<p>Senator BUSHBY—But you cannot tell me today?</p> <p>Ms Madden—I do not have the exact breakdown here but I can provide that to you on notice.</p>				
<i>China Approved Destination Status Scheme</i>							
BR12	Senator Bushby	DRET	<p>Senator BUSHBY—What about the program support funding for the delivery of an enhanced Approved Destination Status scheme for China?</p> <p>Ms Madden—The Approved Destination Status scheme was also an announcement in the budget. The government has committed over \$4 million over the next four years to continue the Approved Destination Scheme. This is a memorandum of understanding we have with the Chinese government and it allows Australia to market Tourism Australia's activities in country. Very importantly, it allows some quality assurance and monitoring of group tours that form the backbone of Chinese visitation to Australia.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Do you have a breakdown of the budget?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, we can provide a breakdown of that budget.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Not today, though?</p> <p>Ms Madden—I will just check my notes. I have some ADS expenditure breakdown here. One of the important elements of that budget is a compliance monitoring agency contract. We have some indicative details of that for this financial year. Because we are still in the process of negotiating that contract and other aspects it is only in projected budget terms but we can provide some further details to you on notice.</p>	E45	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Consumer protection for overseas tourists</i>							
BR13	Senator Bushby	DRET	<p>Senator BUSHBY—What about program support funding for improved access by overseas visitors to Australian consumer protection?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Sorry, could you elaborate?</p>	E45	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>Senator BUSHBY—Improved access by overseas visitors to Australian consumer protection is something I understand the government has undertaken to deliver.</p> <p>Ms Madden—The tourism consumer protection fund is administered by the Australian government but the Treasury is actually doing a review of that at this point in time. We are involved with that. We do not have any new budget allocation. It is met through departmental running costs. I can include it in what in-kind support we have in the supplementary material we will provide to you on notice.</p>				
<i>Tourism costs – various programs</i>							
BR14	Senator Bushby	DRET	<p>Senator BUSHBY—What about the delivery of the TQUAL grants program and other tourism related programs as required?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Regarding the TQUAL grants program, the minister announced the final grants under this scheme on 15 December, if my memory serves me correctly. There were 70 successful projects with a total value of \$8.283 million. This is a program allocation running until 30 June 2010. We are in the process of rolling out all those projects at the moment and that will take us up to 30 June 2010.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—And as with all of these programs—</p> <p>Ms Madden—I apologise. It is the 2010-11 financial year, so it is actually up to 30 June 2011. Apologies.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Okay. As with all of these programs, if you could outline as well the proportion of departmental resources used to support them. What about program support funding for the enhanced national tourism research agenda, informing policy development and industry investment decisions?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, I can provide that in detail.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Production and dissemination of tourism forecasts and surveys for inbound domestic and outbound markets?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, there is a range of work undertaken there, including jointly with Tourism Australia and the Tourism</p>	E45-E46	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>Forecasting Council, so we can provide the detailed breakdown—</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Of the costing of support for that?</p> <p>Ms Madden—of the costs associated with that, yes, under the program for deliverables.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Development of policy initiatives to support Indigenous tourism and engagement with relevant partners?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, likewise.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—The same way. What about engagement with key stakeholders? You do not have any of these figures with you, I presume.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Senator, we see that you are tracking down the statement of deliverables in the portfolio budget statement. We are happy to provide you the allocation of the funding and staff resources in the tourism division against each of those deliverables and to identify, where they have separate program funding, the quantum of that. It is not a structure that we use for internal accounting—</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—No, I understand that.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—but we are happy to map the internal structure against this list of deliverables for you.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—That would assist us in understanding how it works.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Certainly.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Also for the current year and the estimates for each of the out years, to the extent that you have them?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Certainly.</p>				
<i>American Visitors</i>							
BR15	Senator McGauran	Tourism Australia	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Where are they going? Do you know that?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—Yes. The American visitor is pretty good at dispersing travel. They do all of the great icons of Australia but they also go to other parts. I know from experience that Kangaroo Island in South Australia is a big one for the</p>	E47	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			islands. They do get in amongst our regions, so the US visitor is a very good visitor. They are a pretty good disperser. I could get you some specific numbers if you are interested. Senator McGAURAN —Please.				
<i>Tourism Australia overseas spending</i>							
BR16	Senator Eggleston	Tourism Australia	Senator EGGLESTON —Thank you. Where does Tourism Australia spend its funds overseas? How much is spent in each area in dollar and percentage terms? Mr McEvoy —If it is okay with the Senate, we will take that on notice and give you the complete breakdown.	E47	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Regional tourism</i>							
BR17	Senator Eggleston	Tourism Australia	Senator EGGLESTON —My other question is about regional tourism. Where are your tourists coming into and are they going to regional destinations like the north-west, which is my particular interest? I am sure Senator Macdonald will ask you about North Queensland. Where are they essentially coming into? Mr McEvoy —Clearly, being an island nation, it is where there are capital city gateways to bring them in. Cruise shipping has been a great opportunity for regional Australia, but there are many markets that are fantastic at getting amongst regional Australia—the UK and Europe in particular, and the Americas. More and more of our Asian visitors are starting to venture out as FITs—fully independent travellers. Depending on which market, I could give you the breakdown of who disperses beyond the four major gateways. Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth are considered major gateways. Then Adelaide, Cairns and Broome are considered regional gateways. We know those numbers. As a rule of thumb, the Europeans are the best dispersers—that is, the French, the Italians, the Germans, the Scandinavians and the Swiss really get in amongst it. I think they see more	E48	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>of Australia than Australians do.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—Probably they do. I would be very interested if you could provide those figures on notice. I would be grateful for that.</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—Sure. Absolutely.</p>				
<i>Tourism Visitor Statistics</i>							
BR18	Senator Ian MacDonald	Tourism Australia	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thanks for the answers to questions on notice from last time about visitors in North Queensland. To a degree, I want to follow on from Senator Eggleston's questions. Do you have any intelligence on who the tourists are who go to Broome and Darwin, and why?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—I think the international visitor survey would give us some guide. We will take that on notice and give you some facts on Darwin, Cairns and Townsville.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I said Darwin and Broome, but you could include tropical North Queensland, plus the Whitsundays, if you would. I think the PBS says you have noticed a bit of a falling off in business events tourism due to the global financial crisis. Do you have any sorts of statistics on that or is it just a feeling?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—It is definitely statistics.</p>	E48	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Business events fact sheet</i>							
BR19	Senator Ian MacDonald	DRET	<p>Ms Madden—Tourism Research Australia, under the department, is working up a fact sheet at the moment on business events. You may be aware that the business events industry have developed a strategy, sitting alongside the national long-term tourism strategy, with a range of things to support business events. One of those actions was to do some more research and data collection on business events. So Tourism Research Australia has been working with Business Events Australia, under Tourism Australia, to develop some further facts. I think some work is</p>	E48-E49	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			<p>expected in coming weeks on that. They are waiting for the outcome of the next IVS, the international visitor survey, which, as we were just mentioning, is one of the key surveys that shows not just the overall level of visitation but the breakdown by detailed region. That will be fed also into the business events report that is coming out shortly.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—If you could make a copy of that available to the committee when it comes, that would be great.</p>				
<i>Business events tourism</i>							
BR20	Senator MacDonald	DRET	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Are you able to give me details on notice over the last two or three years of what part of the business events tourism related to mining?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Certainly if that information is available, we would be pleased to provide that to you on notice.</p>	E49	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Indigenous tourism activity</i>							
BR21	Senator MacDonald	DRET	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I do not want to be parochial about this, but would it be correct to assume that most of the Indigenous tourism activity would be in the north of Australia?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—It is a national spread actually. Western Australia is very strong, as is Queensland and the Northern Territory. But the Koori heritage of Victoria is well represented, as are the Indigenous people of South Australia and New South Wales. There is even a Tasmanian presence. It is a national thing. But, to your point, North Queensland is very strong, as is the Northern Territory. And Western Australia as a state is very strong.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—If you have them now, or if you are about to get them, can you let me have any statistics you might have and any locations of what is being done and what it is that is being done in those locations. Senator Eggleston mentioned the movie <i>Australia</i>. I wonder if the movie <i>One fine day</i> has figured. It was a</p>	E49-E50	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			great movie. Mr McEvoy —Isn't it great? <i>Bran Nue Dae</i> . Senator IAN MACDONALD —Yes. <i>Bran Nue Dae</i> .				
<i>Stimulus spending</i>							
BR22	Senator Birmingham	Tourism Australia	Mr McEvoy —I will give you some facts, Senator. There were 58 projects. We had 27 different charter aircraft come down as part of that and we generated an additional \$11.4 million in revenue. That took the \$9 million up to \$19.4 million. Pretty much most states and territories participated. The senator indicated a couple of the figures we have for North Queensland, but all states and territories got involved, and the campaigns were generally run in what we would call short- or medium-haul markets, so there were a lot of campaigns in Asia, particularly China, and in New Zealand. The whole idea was: how do we tactically support the industry, coming out of the global financial crisis? If you would like, I could give you the exact breakdown of the 58 different campaigns, a lot of which are running right now and generating a lot of good business. Senator BIRMINGHAM —Certainly, if you could, on notice, provide a detailed breakdown for that stimulus spend, that would be most helpful.	E51	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>International advertising spend</i>							
BR23	Senator Birmingham	Tourism Australia	Senator BIRMINGHAM —Okay. In terms of the year-on-year international spend for advertising buy, how will the current financial year compare with next financial year? Mr McEvoy —I will take that one on notice, if that is okay. We will give you that figure. Senator BIRMINGHAM —If you could. Obviously, there is a little bit of positive movement for your buy, at least, in the shift in the dollar. Mr McEvoy —That is correct, yes. So we just want to have a look at that, given our exchange rate and what we can buy. We will get those numbers.	E51-E52	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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<i>Aussie Specialist Program</i>							
BR24	Senator Birmingham	Tourism Australia	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Thank you. Looking at a couple of the other program areas, I see the reduction from the 2009-10 to 2010-11 has been shared across each of your program classes. In 1.2, I note that you appear to be maintaining the Aussie Specialist Program. What impact will it have on your familiarisation visits in 1.2?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—I do not think it will have a big impact on familiarisation visits. We will probably just continue to work with airline partners and the states and territories to make sure we can host those. I do not think there is any material impact on the Visiting Journalist Program.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Again, if there are any numbers that you can provide now or on notice, that would be appreciated—in a year-on-year comparison.</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—Sure.</p>	E52	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>National Tourism Accreditation Framework</i>							
BR25	Senator Birmingham	DRET	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Okay. The National Tourism Accreditation Framework, I see, is highlighted for launch this year. What type of funding goes into that, and how much involvement and direction of that is from the department versus from TA? I think I saw that in both your deliverables.</p> <p>Ms Madden—Previously I did mention that the government had committed 5.5 million over the next four years from 1 July 2010 to implement the accreditation framework. I mentioned that at the inaugural meeting of the quality council which is an industry council but with representation from Tourism Australia, the department and state and territory governments, there was discussion of the budget. Exactly what the breakdown will be is still being finalised. Certainly, it is mentioned under both indicators because TA, in marketing and promoting the quality mark, and the department, in its oversight and governance and support for the accreditation framework, have a role to play</p>	E52	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			in supporting it. As for the detailed budget breakdown, although it is just being worked through at the present time, we are happy to provide on notice further details to you.				
Victorian Bushfire Tourism Industry Support Package							
BR26	Senator McGauran	DRET	<p>Senator McGAURAN—The Victorian Bushfire Tourism Industry Support Package, for which \$10 million was allocated, was to finish in June 2011. Can I have a report card on the expenditure of that money: how much has been distributed, who is receiving it and what it has been spent on—and who is on the task force, too?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes. I am happy to answer all those questions and, if you wish, provide some detailed background to you. It is a \$10 million package, as you are aware, comprising \$5 million from the State of Victoria and \$5 million from Australian government. The key purpose, of course, was to get tourists back to the region economically affected by the bushfires. It covers both of Victoria's high country, Gippsland, Yarra Valley and the Dandenong Ranges.</p> <p>In brief, the package provides \$6 million towards a cooperative marketing and brand-rebuilding campaign; \$1 million to bring forward postponed events and marketing of some of the existing events in the region; and \$3 million is actually helping to enhance and redevelop some of the tourism infrastructure, including visitor facilities. Work is progressing very well against the task force. I am happy to note that as at 31 March \$4.4 million of the marketing and events funding had been already spent; \$800,000 of the infrastructure spending had been spent; and we are on track to complete the entire project by June of next year—June 2011.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Does that mean you are going through the councils?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, the councils are involved. The task force is formally made up of Tourism Victoria, as a co-chair with a representative from my department—the</p>	E53-E54	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism—we have Tourism Australia on board, Parks Australia, Parks Victoria and an industry representative who at this point is the Falls Creek resort management. But that task force, which is planning and over citing the package, is liaising very closely with councils, other industry members in going forward with regard to the disbursement of funds.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—You would have more detail of the actual expenditure on events. I would be happy to receive that.</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, I can give you that.</p>				
'Australia' movie tourism campaign							
BR27	Senator McGauran	Tourism Australia	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Senator Eggleston raised the subject of the ‘There’s nothing like Australia’ campaign centred on the <i>Australia</i> movie. I think we all understand that any sort of tourism campaign is susceptible to many variables. It is often subjective, if not risky. But I thought the answer given by Mr McEvoy was not enough, quite frankly, given what most of us would assess was a flop. You simply attach the promotion to the general health of the tourism industry and said, ‘Therefore it must be a success.’ Let us drill a little deeper. You must have done better with you dollar and sought market research on feedback on that particular promotion. Do you have such market research?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—Yes, we do. We do check and test all of our campaigns and do a brand health check in the key markets across the world.</p> <p>Ms Crowley—We can certainly take on notice that question and get you the actual details and metrics. But just by way of some more background and information, that campaign, which was related to the film <i>Australia</i>, was our largest ever in terms of the number of commercial partners. We had over 130 commercial partners around the world with that. The focus of it was predominately not so much on the box office of the movie. Whatever that was would</p>	E54	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>largely be a bonus. It was largely based on the fact that we were going to ride on the back of a roughly US\$100 million promotional push by the movie studio to promote the film. We knew that they would be spending those sorts of dollars promoting the word 'Australia' and the concept of Australia and that to link to that promotion—</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—But they didn't—</p> <p>Ms Crowley—That was their marketing budget.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—But they did not spend that.</p> <p>Ms Crowley—Globally they did.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Can you show me that?</p> <p>Ms Crowley—Sure, absolutely.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Because in your own brief you say—not you; who says this? Yes, it is Tourism Australia: The challenge was always going to be how to ride the power of the movie.</p> <p>The movie was a flop. It was pulled pretty quickly from American cinemas, so I am amazed to think they spent US\$100 million promoting it.</p> <p>Senator Wong—Chair, if the senator is going to quote from a document it might be useful if we could have the document so that we could reference the answer appropriately.</p> <p>CHAIR—Would you like to table the document, Senator McGauran?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Sure—though it is my only copy. But I will, yes.</p> <p>Senator Wong—Do you want us to not read your notes?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—To answer your question, Senator: we do metrics on how our ads go, and we would be happy to provide you with a breakdown.</p>				
'Australia' movie tourism campaign – target markets							
BR28	Senator McGauran	Tourism Australia	<p>Senator McGAURAN—When you answer the question in regard to the market research you undertook to assess the success or otherwise of the promotion, could you also give me the break-up of the budget for it all, which I think was more than \$40 million; the production costs that went to Buzz Loman—</p>	E55	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>...</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Baz! Okay! How much was allocated to showing the advertisement itself? Are you able to just answer: was it predominantly shown in the United States? I would think so, but is that true?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—It was before my time. But, as I understand it, it would have been shown in our key markets, and our key markets are the five big ones: the UK, the USA, China, Japan and New Zealand. So it would have been across the board. Again, it was before my time so I cannot answer with great confidence. Why don't we give you the breakdown.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—So the breakdown would be: not just the countries, but where within those you have targeted it—is it the lounge room television set, the cinemas or just general billboard promotion? Would it be that sort of breakdown of the whole budget? I would be really interested to confirm that whoever released the movie—20th Century Fox, wasn't it?—really did spend \$100 million promoting this movie. That would be very interesting. Fox Studios I think it was. Anyway, we will get a bit of an idea whether it was a success or not. On face value, it was not—and how could it be, if you linked it with the movie itself?</p> <p>Also, as to the target audience: even here you say, in this document: 'a new sophisticated destination campaign'. Indeed it was, as whoever saw the advertisement—which I did—would know. It was hugely sophisticated. It could only ever have targeted some sort of up-market New York person. In fact, I think that is what one of the advertisements was about—some New York executive dreaming about coming out to Australia. So it was a very targeted market. Again, I know it is subjective but it looked like a big waste to me. Good for Buzz and his movie—Baz and his movie!</p> <p>Senator Wong—Was there a question in that, Chair, or just a diatribe?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Yes: what was the target market?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—I think we have said we would give the senator some breakdowns.</p> <p>Senator Wong—It is the same question.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—No. I have asked for the countries, where the movie has been located, and what demographic, if you like, saw the movies. Who saw the advertisements? Several were of some high-powered female New York executive dreaming</p>				

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>about coming out to Australia. So obviously they had decided just to target a particular, sophisticated market, as they say in their brief.</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—A target audience for—</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Is that what we are really after?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—Australia is the target audience we call the experience seekers. They are a mix of people who have the ability to travel—long to medium haul, predominantly. That means they have a passport, they are digitally savvy, they have done reasonably well in life, and they like what we have to offer. We can reach them because we know what they read, what they watch, what they listen to, and how they research, plan and book a holiday. So we are happy to provide the senator with some detail because I think we have information on the target audience.</p>				
<i>Tourism Australia budget</i>							
BR29	Senator Bushby	DRET	<p>Senator BUSHBY—...From a look over the last decade or so, it seems that the current budget is the lowest since 2003 in real terms.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—If you are looking for a profile of the budget I will ask my chief financial officer to take you through that.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Thank you. I am aware that we are running out of time so I do not want a lot of detail. I just want to know whether my cursory examination of the budget that TA has had is correct in pointing to the current budget being in real terms the lowest since 2003.</p> <p>Ms Rose—I do not have a great deal of historical information. Between 2009-10 and 2010-11, once the transition of TRA from Tourism Australia to the department—</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—I was going to get to that in a minute; that is a separate issue. I am talking about what has happened over the last few years in terms of real increases in TA's budget. It appears to me it is having a real decrease and it is really only managing to cover its position in nominal terms.</p> <p>Ms Rose—We will have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—That is fine.</p>	E56	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>Mr Clarke—We have to take out the effect of the \$9 million bring forward, the stimulus spending to bring forward the marketing that Mr McEvoy has talked about, and the transfer of Tourism Research Australia. Is your question: what does the budget profile look like after adjusting for those one-off events?</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—No. I understand about the shift of TRA back to the department and the impact that will have on the budget. I am more interested in whether over the last few years the Tourism Australia budget has been at least maintained in real terms or it has lost ground in real terms.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—I have not done the calculation in terms of the proper Treasury real term discount in that, but the order of magnitude of around \$160 million per year has been maintained.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—We have got \$142 million this year and 137.5 last year.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—That is after—</p> <p>Senator Wong—That is taking into account the issue that Mr Clarke just explained to you, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—But TRA next year takes it down to 123, which is some 19 million below what it is this year. Is it 160 or 140?</p> <p>Ms Rose—The 140 is the appropriation from government, and Tourism Australia has historically been supplemented by revenue from other sources.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—I am really interested in the government’s input and the degree to which that has been maintained in real terms after taking account of these extraneous factors.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Okay.</p>				
<i>Costing of Tourism Research Australia</i>							
BR30	Senator Bushby	DRET	<p>Senator BUSHBY—How much does it cost to run, all up?</p> <p>Ms Rose—From memory, the revenue from other sources is about \$2 million a year. If you bear with me, I will see if I can find a more accurate figure.</p>	E57	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>Senator BUSHBY—Okay. While you are looking, in case it is somewhere nearby, are you able to tell me how many people are employed by Tourism Research Australia?</p> <p>Ms Rose—Twenty-one.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Are there any current plans to change either the level of expenditure involved with TRA or the numbers employed by it?</p> <p>Ms Rose—No, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—You are just looking up that figure?</p> <p>Ms Rose—I will have to take it on notice; my apologies.</p>				
<i>Tourism Australia spending</i>							
BR31	Senator Bushby	Tourism Australia	<p>Mr McEvoy—We have two programs that run in Australia. One, ‘No leave, no life’, is about the untaken leave, and also we will run elements of this. The big success in Australia, as you alluded to, was the competition and the consumer generated stuff, so you will see that we will put focus on that again. We will reopen that up for Australians to upload their imagery et cetera, but we will also focus on ‘No leave, no life’, which has—</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—How would you break up the domestic spend between those two programs?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—If I can take that on notice, I will give you the breakdown.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Okay. And foreign markets?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy—Similarly, I will give you a breakdown of where we invest, market by market.</p>	E58	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>National Tourism Accreditation Framework Funding</i>							
BR48	Senator Bushby	Tourism Australia	<p>Senator BUSHBY—Okay. Once again, what about the program support funding for the implementation of a national tourism accreditation framework?</p> <p>Ms Madden—That was an announcement in the budget. The government has committed \$5.5 million over the next four years for the implementation of the national</p>	E45	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Proof Hansard page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>accreditation framework. It is being done collectively with an industry council called the Tourism Quality Council. There is a representative of our department, a representative of Tourism Australia and a representative of the states and territories on that council. They have oversight of the implementation. As you may recall from previous meetings, we have briefed the committee previously on the joint working group that set up all the governance arrangements behind this national accreditation framework. We are pleased that it has now moved to the next stage and we have some funding to implement the accreditation framework.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Do you have a breakdown of that funding over each of the years?</p> <p>Ms Madden—The Tourism Quality Council held their first meeting on 19 May, including a handover session with that joint working group. The question of the budget was addressed at that meeting and the Tourism Quality Council is just taking some further consideration, working on the overall budget of four years, to plan what actions will be taken. I do not have a detailed breakdown yet. It is still being considered by the members but they have \$5.5 million and there are some indicative allocations that are being determined over coming weeks.</p>				

RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO
Budget Estimates 2010–11 (May-June 2010)

Written Questions on Notice

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Renewable Energy Fund & Energy Efficiency Fund</i>						
BR32	Senator Birmingham	DRET	<p>How much of the \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election has been granted to develop renewable energy projects? Please provide a breakdown of all successful and unsuccessful applications.</p> <p>How much of the \$150 million Energy Efficiency Fund promised has been granted to help keep leading scientists and researchers in Australia? Please provide a breakdown of all successful and unsuccessful applications.</p>	11/10/2010	11/10/2010	
<i>RET corporate issues - staffing</i>						
BR33	Senator Barnett	DRET	<p><u>Staffing</u> How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)?</p> <p>What level are these staff?</p> <p>How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?</p> <p>Since additional estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
			<p><u>Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts</u></p> <p>Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? - Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?</p>			

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>- Since additional estimates?</p> <p>If so, where and at what level?</p> <p>Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.</p> <p>If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? <i>(for example, if the budget papers say 'improvement to strategic work practices' or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)</i></p> <p>What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.</p>			
			<p><u>Government Advertising</u></p> <p>What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken? For each program, what is the total spend?</p> <p><i>(by 'communications program' it is meant 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. The recent (current) Government TV advertising campaign on health reform and specific health initiatives are examples, BER signage is an example, advertising on the Government's proposed new tax system would be another example.)</i></p> <p><i>A breakdown of how much was spent/is planned to be spent on each program/initiative should be provided.</i></p>			
			<p><u>Hospitality</u></p> <p>What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD? <i>Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</i></p> <p>For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.</p>			

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<i>Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</i>			
			<p><u>Board Appointments</u></p> <p>What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?</p> <p>What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since the Government came to office in November 2007?</p>			
			<p><u>Grants</u></p> <p>Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?</p>			
			<p><u>Freedom of Information</u></p> <p>Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?</p> <p>How many FOI requests has the Department received?</p> <p>How many have been granted or denied?</p> <p>How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?</p>			
			<p><u>Community Cabinets</u></p> <p>What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since additional estimates?</p> <p>How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?</p> <p>What was the total cost of this travel?</p> <p>What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?</p>			

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p><u>Reviews</u></p> <p>What is the total number of Reviews <i>both completed and ongoing</i> in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since the government came to office (only those commenced after the current government came to office) including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - when those reviews were provided to Government, - estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and - if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review. <p>How many reviews are ongoing?</p> <p>How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?</p> <p>What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?</p>			
			<p><u>Consultancies</u></p> <p>How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007?</p> <p><i>Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc).</i></p> <p><i>Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.</i></p> <p>Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?</p> <p>How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website</p>			

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>and if not why not?</p> <p><i>In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.</i></p> <p><i>All answers should be current at the time the answer is submitted.</i></p>			
			<p><u>Government Payment of Accounts</u></p> <p>Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts?</p> <p><i>Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)</i></p> <p>For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?</p> <p>Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?</p>			
<i>Australian Solar Institute</i>						
BR34	Senator Boswell	DRET/ASI	<p>Can we have a copy of the memorandum and articles of association for the Australian Solar Institute (ASI hereafter)?</p> <p>Who are the members of the ASI?</p> <p>Who are the guarantor members of ASI?</p> <p>How much has each guarantor member agreed to pay in the event of ASI winding up?</p> <p>What is the tax status of the ASI?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If they are non-taxable, what was the basis of the Tax Office's 	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			decision to make it so?			
Greater Sunrise gas field						
BR35	Senator Bob Brown	Geoscience Australia	What information does Geoscience Australia have relating to the Greater Sunrise Field between Australia and Timor-Leste? <i>Please provide the committee with all that information, including any documentation relating to Woodside.</i>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
Tourism projects						
BR36	Senator Bushby	DRET	For each of the Minister's media releases listed below please detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Which programme the project was funded by; b) What was the first year this programme commenced; c) What was the year this project was first awarded funding; d) What electorate the project was in; e) How much funding was this project awarded; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. This year ii. In total <p>8 May 2010 Goldfields on track for tourism growth 7 May 2010 Tourism funding for Aboriginal Discovery Centre 3 May 2010 Funding for Rockhampton tourism leader 2 May 2010 Tourism funding boost for Yorke Peninsula 1 May 2010 Tourism funding puts Bradman Museum on good wicket 22 Apr 2010 New tourism funding for Tasmania's food and wine industry 29 Mar 2010 Darwin crocodile attraction snaps up tourism funding 21 Mar 2010 Tourism funding for outback NSW 4 Mar 2010 Red centre way tourism project launched 3 Mar 2010 South Australia leads cycle tourism push 21 Feb 2010 Tourism grant brings art show to Margaret River 12 Feb 2010 Iconic south west tourism project launched</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
Mining in Gunnedah						

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
BR37	Senator Heffernan	DRET	<p>Issue: Mining in Gunnedah, NSW</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Department have any knowledge of the Chinese company Shenhua or their subsidiaries planning to build power stations in areas outside the Hunter Valley in other areas of regional NSW? Are there any plans that the Department is aware of to build power stations close to the mining operations near Gunnedah to try and overcome the transport deficiencies from mine to port? 	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Ord River Irrigation Scheme</i>						
BR38	Senator Siewert	Geoscience Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Have recent groundwater surveys been carried out by Geoscience Australia over the current estimated area of the Ord stage 2 development? Did this survey identify the presence of perched salt stores in the Ord stage 2 area? What area of the proposed new irrigated land is subject to the salt stores identified by Geoscience Australia? What impact will the salt stores identified by Geoscience Australia have on development of the current Ord stage 2 area? 	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Solar Flagships Program</i>						
BR39	Senator Birmingham	DRET	<p>Solar Flagships Program</p> <p>What is the total budget for the Solar Flagships Program? Is it still a \$1.5 billion commitment (possibly including beyond the forward estimates)?</p> <p>How many projects is this program still intended to support? What power generation capacity is this program still targeted to support?</p> <p>Please detail all consultants engaged in relation to this program to date – name, costs, work provided, any ongoing or future role for them.</p> <p>What is the process for the feasibility studies into the eight shortlisted projects? By whom are the feasibility studies being overseen? What, if any, funding is provided at this stage of shortlisting? What are the targeted power generation</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			capacities of each of the eight shortlisted projects?			
<i>Buildings' energy efficiency</i>						
BR40	Senator Birmingham	DRET	<p>Buildings' Energy Efficiency</p> <p>Please list every building occupied by the Department.</p> <p>For each building: Has an energy efficiency audit been undertaken? If so, what rating was achieved and what action has been taken to improve energy efficiency as a result of any audit undertaken?</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>RET corporate issues (advertising / Secretary salary)</i>						
BR41	Senator Eggleston	DRET	<p>How much has the Department spent on Google advertisements? What search terms are being maintained? Are any other search engines receiving funds from the Department?</p> <p>What are the terms of the salary package of the Secretary? How long is the contract, what are the KPIs? What was the size of the redundancy package for the now departed secretary?</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Resources Super Profits Tax</i>						
BR42	Senator Eggleston	DRET	<p>RSPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Department or the Minister be recommending the increase of the petroleum resource rent tax to match that of the proposed Resource Super Profit Tax? • Are there any plans to remove the exemption of the North West Shelf from the petroleum resource rent tax? • How does the regulatory environment for offshore drilling in Australia compare to the United States? • What advice on or input to the design of the RSPT was provided by RET Department? • Was the Department formally requested by Treasury to provide advice or comments for inclusion in the Cabinet submission that proposed 	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>the introduction of the RSPT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was the Department officially briefed on the Government’s decision on the RSPT? Is it correct that the Department was only briefed on Saturday, 1 May – 1 day before the Government’s announcement? • The RSPT applies to existing projects (apart from those currently covered by the PRRT). Does this means the RSPT is retrospective? • Has the Department provided advice to the Government as to the adverse impact of a retrospective tax on investor perception of new investment in Australia? • Does the Department agree with the KPMG Econtech report when it concludes that failure to fully grandfather existing projects brings existing projects under the RSPT and is therefore a sovereign risk event ?. • How will the 40% loss guarantee provision of the RSPT change the manner in which banks and other financial institutions structure lending arrangements for resource projects? • Did Treasury test the claimed impact of the 40% loss guarantee provision of the RSPT on the approach banks and other financial institutions will take when structuring lending arrangements for resource projects? • The government announced new taxation measures said to assist mineral exploration, presumably in lieu of the previously promised Flow Through Share Scheme? How will such measures assist junior explorers needing up-front capital injections and for whom taxation measures are largely irrelevant? 			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hawke-Keating Government specifically acknowledged the adverse impact of the PRRT on Victorian domestic gas prices and provided substantial cash offsets as a result. Why then can the Government flatly deny that its proposed RSPT cannot have any impact on today’s coal and/or gas powered generation costs? • “We are calling for consideration of a higher PRRT threshold rate” - If now-Minister Ferguson when in Opposition could make this statement, what has changed to make a threshold rate 5% lower than that applicable to the PRRT is adequate under the RSPT jus t a few years later? • What is the likely impact of the Resource Super Profit Tax on the coal mining industry and associated support industries? (Courier Mail 			

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			23/2/2010			
			<p><u>Electricity / RSPT</u> (consult with Energy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the RSPT apply to fuels used in electricity generation? • Will the RSPT flow through to higher electricity costs for business and households? <p><u>LNG/RSPT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many tonnes of LNG have been exported from Australian projects operating under the PRRT regime? • In view of the ongoing Gulf of Mexico oil rig blow out disaster in deep (1,500 metres) water, what confidence might the Australian public take that projects in Australian waters are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better designed and managed by their operators, • Better supervised by Government agencies. <p><u>Coal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Resources Minister has publicly supported the bid by a consortium of coal producers to buy QR's below rail assets, despite the State Labor Government's strong opposition. What actions are being taken to convince the State Government to change its mind? 			
<i>Geothermal energy/deep-sea resources/collaboration with other agencies</i>						
BR43	Senator Eggleston	Geoscience Australia	<p><u>Geoscience Australia</u></p> <p>Has Geoscience Australia done any work comparing geothermal energy to other forms of renewable energy? In particular, looking at the levels of investment required, amount of power available, etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note to GA – refer to The Age 6/3/2010; the Weekend Australian 13/3/2010, 27/3/2010</i> <p>What involvement did Geoscience Australia have in the search and investigation of the Mentelle Basin of the West Australian coast?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note to GA – refer to Perth Now 17/5/2010</i> <p>What research work is continuing around Australia in investigating further</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>deep-sea resources?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note to GA – refer to Weekend Australian 3/4/2010, the West Australian 14/4/2010</i> <p>How much does Geoscience Australia work with other state agencies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note to GA – refer to Weekend Australian 24/4/2010</i> <p>Where are the likely areas that are going to be hit by earthquakes in Australia by the end of the year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note to GA – refer to Sunday Times 25/4/2010</i> <p>Is Geoscience Australia working with Geological and Nuclear Science, the New Zealand geoscience agency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note to GA – refer to The Australian 27/4/2010</i> 			
<i>Offshore petroleum regulatory environment</i>						
BR44	Senator Eggleston	National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority	<p><u>NOPSA</u></p> <p>How does Australia's regulatory environment for offshore petroleum compare to the regulatory environment in other countries, particularly around deep-sea drilling Louisiana</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Solar power towers / ASI grants</i>						
BR45	Senator Eggleston	Australian Solar Institute	<p><u>Australian Solar Institute</u></p> <p>What other areas are being investigated for future solar power towers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note to ASI – refer to Indymedia 28/4/2010; The Chemical Engineer 30/4/2010</i> <p>Can ASI provide a list of all recipients of grants in the first round of competitive funding? Please include the amount received and a summary of what the grant will be used for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note to ASI – refer to Solar Industry Magazine 12/5/2010</i> 	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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<i>National Tourism Accreditation Framework</i>						
BR46	Senator Eggleston	DRET	<p><u>Tourism Division</u> Can the Minister explain the difference in funding for the establishment of the National Tourism Accreditation Framework on page 291 of Budget Paper 2 compared to page 35 of the Portfolio Budget Statement Budget Related Paper No 1.17?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total spending in the out-years in Budget Paper 2 is \$5.5 million, but is \$250,000 in the Portfolio Budget Statement. ○ Please justify 	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Tourism Australia activities</i>						
BR47	Senator Eggleston	Tourism Australia	<p><u>Tourism Australia</u> What has been the success or otherwise of the new Tourism Australia campaign "There is Nothing Like Australia"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Note to TA – refer to The Australian Financial Review 31/3/2010; Australian 31/3/2010, 5/4/10; The Age 1/4/2010; Canberra Times 1/4/2010</i> <p>How is social media influencing levels of visitors to Australia?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Note to TA – refer to Sydney Morning Herald 19/3/2010</i> <p>Tourism Australia has had \$20 million removed from its Budget. Where has that gone?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Note to TA – refer to page 35 of Portfolio Budget Statement</i> <p>What is the impact of changes in the consumer price index on Tourism Australia appropriations?</p> <p>In Additional Budget Estimates, Mr McEvoy said that the rephasing of \$9 million in Tourism Australia funding would be invested in foreign exchange claims. Yet in the Tourism Australia Budget Statement, \$6.2 million has been stated as the effect of exchange rate movements on cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of reporting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can this be reconciled? 	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

Number	Senator	Division	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What assumptions were made in the budget about the exchange rate with the US dollar? ○ How does this compare to the current exchange rate and future predictions of exchange rate movements? <p>Where is the Department and Tourism Australia spending its funds overseas and how much is it spending in each area? In dollar and percentage terms.</p> <p>What portion of expenditure for each of the years above was/is planned to be spent on domestic marketing activities vs international marketing activities? Please also provide information on forward estimates.</p> <p>Regarding the \$15.2 million reduction in Program 1.3 funding, what will Tourism Australia no longer do in 2010-11 that it did in 2009-10? Detail the specific details of the markets and marketing programs to be discontinued or reduced?</p>			
			<p>At the Additional Estimates hearings in February, Mr McEvoy said Tourism Australia expected to make an additional \$9 million on currency gains in the 2010/11 financial year. Please update the committee on this forecast.</p> <p>Regarding the Tourism Australia Annual Report 2008-09, Page 57.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Was a map of North Korea shown on the original copy? ○ How many copies of the report were produced? ○ What was the cost of these copies? ○ How many copies were pulped as a result of the error? ○ How many, and what, overseas offices of the Australian Government had a copy of the original annual report? How many have a reprinted copy? <p>No Leave, No Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I refer to the 'No Leave, No Life' campaign announced by the Minister on 4 December 2008. ○ Has domestic tourism, measured by domestic visitor nights, increased 			

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			<p>since the No Leave, No Life campaign?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there any tangible way the Department or Tourism Australia can say this campaign has been a success? I.e. any increases in yield or visitors? 			
<i>Administered programs</i>						
BR49	Senator Eggleston	DRET	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please provide, in spreadsheet form, a list of all programmes administered by your Department and portfolio agencies? 2. Can that list please show for each listed programme: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The name of the programme. (b) Full administered expenses for each financial year of the forward estimates period starting from 2010-11. (c) Full departmental expenses for each financial year of the forward estimates period starting from 2010-11. (d) Allocated Average Staffing Level (ASL) for the programme in 2010-11. 3. If that list cannot be provided, can you please advise the reason why simple full-expenditure financial information is not readily available for the public's information. 	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Nuclear Waste Repository</i>						
BR50	Senator Eggleston	DRET/ ANSTO	<p>What is the progress for the creation of a nuclear waste repository at Muckatj Station? (Canberra Times 26/2/2010).</p> <p>Were any other sites considered for the site of the repository? (Adelaide Advertiser 26/2/2010)</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Bloom box – mini power plant project</i>						
BR51	Senator Eggleston	DRET	<p>What investigations have taken place into the Bloom Box? Are there any other projects of this nature that the Department is examining? (Canberra Times 26/2/2010).</p>	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	

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			Refer http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/us-trials-backyard-power-plant/1762035.aspx			
<i>Clean Energy Hub</i>						
BR52	Senator Birmingham	DRET	Has the Government transformed Australia into the Clean Energy Hub of the Asia Pacific as promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election? How is such a claim measured and who determines which Asia Pacific country is the hub?	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Renewable Energy Fund</i>						
BR53	Senator Fisher	DRET	Page 9 of Budget Paper 2, on the CPRS deferral states there will be savings of \$2.7 billion over five years. 1. What became of the \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund? 2. Has any of this money been rolled into the Renewable Energy Future Fund?	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	
<i>Nuclear test compensation</i>						
BR54	Senator Ludlam	DRET / ANSTO	<u>Nuclear test compensation</u> (a) Some years ago a payment of \$13.5 million was made by the Australian government for rehabilitation of the Maralinga site. Have efforts been undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the clean up measures, and at what intervals and using what methodology is ongoing monitoring being undertaken into the safety of the area? (b) Were efforts made to undertake a clean up of the Emu Fields site and the Montebello Islands? If not, why has such a measure not been undertaken? (c) What justification is there for providing compensation to veterans and other personnel affected by the testing, but failing to provide compensation to the Aboriginals impacted by the same tests? (d) What options are open for compensation models to Aboriginal peoples affected by the testing? (e) What financial assistance if any, is being considered to assist the Aboriginal victims of the British Nuclear tests to pursue their legal rights through the British courts? If not, why not? (f) Has there been any consideration of a model for lump sum compensation for personnel impacted by the tests? (g) What are the reasons for rejecting such a model?	05/10/2010	08/10/2010	