

SENATE ECONOMICS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS – 31 MAY 2011
RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Q No.	Program, Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page and Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Response Rec'd	Date Tabled
BR1	RET	Cameron	Coal Industry	<p>Senator CAMERON: I want to come back to this last point—I mean, \$1 billion over 10 years. Do we have a figure for the profitability of the coal industry in this country?</p> <p>Mr Clarke: I do not have that at hand.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Clarke: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I want to know what a billion dollars is as a percentage of the profitability of the coal industry over that 10 year period.</p> <p>Mr Clarke: Thank you, Senator. I will take that on notice.</p> <p><i>And further clarification on page 15</i></p> <p>CHAIR: We will recommence, and continue with the resources and energy section of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. Senator Cameron has a clarification of his question on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Mr Clarke, I asked you about profits. I am sure that you do not have a crystal ball that enables you to look at the profits 10 years hence, so could you look at the profits 10 years back and then compare that to \$1 billion. What percentage that is of the profits of the previous decade for the coal industry?</p> <p>Mr Clarke: Yes.</p>	9-10 and 15	25/7/11	
BR2	RET	Milne	Carbon Net Project	<p>Senator MILNE: I want to go to its involvement in the Carbon Net project. The Victorian government Department of Primary Industry's Carbon Net proposal is one of the shortlisted projects under the Carbon Capture and Storage Flagship program. Can the department table the Carbon Net application to the CCS Flagship?</p> <p>Ms Sewell: I think that I will have to take that on notice.</p>	11	25/7/11	

BR3	RET	Milne	Dual Gas	<p>Mr Clarke: Could you quote that again?</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Yes, in their July to December financial statement, HRL indicated that they no longer control the affairs of Dual Gas due to the role of the project review committee formed and run by the Victorian and federal governments. So is it true that HRL no longer controls the affairs of Dual Gas?</p> <p>Mr Clarke: I do not have the benefit of the document in front of me, but I am not sure that I accept the premise that a project committee drives those sorts of commercial outcomes. So unless my colleagues can advise, we might have to take that one on notice. But I do put the marker down, Senator, that I am not sure that I accept the premise of the information in your quote. So I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: At the same time then and in relation to the same matter, you may wish to take on notice as well if it is indeed true that the project review committee run by the Victorian and federal governments are controlling the affairs of Dual Gas. Do you think it is appropriate for the department to run a private company while at the same time being responsible for overseeing the allocations of grants under the LETDF that have been awarded to HRL and Dual Gas? At the same time it is responsible for assessing the company's appropriateness for grants under the CCS Flagship program, which HRL/Dual Gas may be eligible for? Clearly that is a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Mr Clarke: I agree with you. We are not controlling the interests of any of these companies. Again, I do not accept the premise in the material that you have quoted to me. I do accept the principle that if the Commonwealth had a commercial interest in a project then there is a conflict of interest issue that would have to be managed. But we do not have a commercial interest in this project in the way in which it has been presented.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: It may not be commercial in the sense of running the company at the board level, although, if this project review committee is indeed controlling the affairs, you would argue that it was, surely. Anyway, I accept that you are going to take that on notice and we cannot resolve that matter here. Can you give me a time frame on the whole HRL grants decision?</p>	12	25/7/11	
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BR4	RET	Ludlam	Energy and Resources Council and Uranium Council meetings	<p>Ms Constable: It is always the intention when you have government-to-government and cross-jurisdictional issues to bring it before the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources, which will shortly change to the energy and resource council. That particular issue will certainly be brought forward either as a noting item or for consideration by ministers. So it is more for information, as opposed to approval of ministers.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I do not get invited to those meetings and neither does most of the general public.</p> <p>Ms Constable: There is always a communique that is put out after those meetings. If there is a report published then that report is always made public.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Okay. What is the frequency of meetings at the moment, again specifically on that issue of the cross-jurisdictional stuff?</p> <p>Ms Constable: We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Sheldrick: With respect to the frequency of the uranium council meetings, there are generally about two a year. There is one scheduled for 7 June in Perth where the work program will be discussed.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Will that coincide with the world uranium conference?</p> <p>Mr Sheldrick: The AusIMM conference.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: So there will be a meeting at the same time. Where is that due to take place?</p> <p>Mr Sheldrick: Sorry, Senator?</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Where and when is that taking place?</p> <p>Mr Sheldrick: That meeting?</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Sheldrick: It is on the 7th. I think it is in the venue of the AusIMM but I would need to check that.</p>	14-15	25/7/11	
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BR5	RET	Ludlam	Nuclear policy	<p>Senator LUDLAM: If you could check that for us; I think that is next week. In recent correspondence to national environment groups and other stakeholders, Minister Martin Ferguson referred to himself as the minister with the portfolio responsibility for nuclear policy. Is this correct and can you confirm—I do not know if I should throw to you, Minister—whether there has been a change of portfolio or a restructure?</p> <p>Ms Constable: Uranium is the area that the department considers, of course. Uranium is a very important part of the nuclear fuel cycle. Consideration of uranium mining is always in the context of a full nuclear fuel cycle. The department has particular areas of responsibility within that nuclear fuel cycle, starting from the exploration and mining activities of uranium, out to radioactive waste issues. What we do not have responsibility for, because we do not have nuclear energy in Australia, is nuclear power, nuclear energy.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: Therefore, I think the minister's general description is correct.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I am wondering whether the minister for the environment, the minister for health or the Minister for Foreign Affairs were notified about the portfolio change or whether Minister Ferguson has just taken this on unilaterally.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: There was not a portfolio change. Secondly, I would have to take it on notice, if you seriously want me to pursue that. Do you want me to take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Yes, I am very interested to know. I have never heard of a portfolio responsibility for nuclear policy. That is brand new.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: I think you are, frankly, over-reading into the comments made by the minister.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: No, they are not comments. It is in correspondence.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: Nevertheless, I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: If you could, I would appreciate that.</p>	15	25/7/11	
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BR6	RET	Ludlam	Ranger Mine site	<p>Ms Constable: As I have mentioned, it is independently verified, but there is also oversight by the Department of Resources in the Northern Territory, by the Northern Territory Land Council and by the Supervising Scientist. So a range of people contribute to that final assessment.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Who is your independent verifier?</p> <p>Ms Constable: For the current program, it is QS Services.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: And everybody is completely confident that \$169 million is enough to bring that site back into harmony with the values of the park before mining?</p> <p>Ms Constable: We are confident that that is a figure that reflects the rehabilitation of the Ranger Mine site.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: How much greater is the area of ground disturbance at the Ranger Mine compared to Rum Jungle? I do not expect you to have that right in front of you.</p> <p>Ms Constable: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I appreciate that.</p>	18	25/7/11	
BR7	RET	Ludlum	Uranium Mine	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I appreciate that. Has a uranium mine the size of Ranger—anything of that order of magnitude—ever been rehabilitated before anywhere in the world?</p> <p>Ms Constable: Mines certainly have. Again, I would have to take on notice that specific question as it relates to uranium mines.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Yes.</p>	18	25/7/11	

BR8	RET	Cameron	Workers from Overseas	<p>Senator CAMERON: If you are intimately involved, let us talk detail. I do not want to get pushed off to the immigration department, because your department is responsible for safety in mining and your department is responsible for productivity in mining, and they are both linked to bringing in workers from overseas. So your department has not made any assessment as to the number of workers who will come to Australia in the next 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Constable: The work that the taskforce has done is on a medium-growth scenario. I have figures out to 2015: 30,000 construction jobs on new resource projects in every year to 2015, peaking at around 45,000 between 2012-13. The numbers of jobs in mining and gas operations will grow, as I have said, 65,000 to 75,000, taking the sector's direct employment to around 250,000 people by 2015. So, as I said, there are skill shortages—but Australian workers first. We expect that there will be further vacancies in both mining and gas operations of around 10 per cent of employees, more than about 18,000 people, who leave the sector each year.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I am happy to get all those global statistics.</p> <p>Ms Constable: No; these are Australian statistics.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Yes, but they are global Australian statistics; that is globally. I am interested in how many workers will be coming here in the next 12 months, and you cannot tell me.</p> <p>Ms Constable: I would have to go back and get those numbers from companies, certainly.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Is that something the department normally does?</p> <p>Ms Constable: We do not collect numbers of workers coming in. As I have said, that sits with another portfolio; it sits with the Department of employment and workplace relations and the department of immigration. But certainly, to be helpful, we can take that on notice and provide that information.</p>	20-21	25/7/11	
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BR9	RET	Cameron	Mine safety	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details to me of the numbers of foreign workers who will be brought to Australia to assist in either building or operating mine sites or resource projects around the country? Let us say 'resource projects'; that is a wider net. I would like to know how many are coming in. I would like to know what the department is doing to ensure the safety of those workers and whether any processes are being implemented with state governments on a formal basis in relation to safety. Could you give me the numbers that you expect of overseas workers on each project that is underway in the minerals sector, and could you advise me as to whether there have been any notified injuries or deaths of workers generally in the industry or deaths or injuries of workers who have been brought in here to do temporary work. Could you also give us the detail of the countries of origin of the workers who are coming in. What are the skills of those workers and what checks are in place as to whether they have the skills that are required? Is this all part of your responsibility?</p> <p>Ms Constable: We can certainly provide that information. My understanding is that the number of people coming into Australia where there might have been deaths is zero. In terms of country of origin, we can certainly provide that information to you. In respect of individuals, people need to be appropriately qualified. The mining industry is very conscious of safety conditions. The unions in each of the states certainly make sure that every single individual is appropriately ticketed to be able to work on mine sites.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is not true. How do they do that?</p> <p>Ms Constable: General inspections occur, and legislation is in place on mining in all of the states. In fact, we are working between the three big mine states right now on core mine safety legislation.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you take this on notice: can you then provide me details of how unions can access these workers that are coming in? Does the department see any impediments to unions having free and available access to these workers to make sure that the skills are available and these workers are being treated fairly and reasonably? It would be appreciated if you could provide that. That is part of your responsibility, I would assume, if you have raised it with me, the issue of unions?</p>	21-22	25/7/11	
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BR10	RET	Cameron	Tertiary institutions	<p>Ms Constable: The companies have relationships with many of the tertiary institutions around Australia. In Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, and certainly in South Australia, every company has a relationship with their tertiary institutions to provide a program and requests on ensuring that they bring the appropriate skills through those tertiary institutions so that they are available to come on line at appropriate times for projects. There is certainly a lot of work being done by the companies themselves.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So there is a lot of work being done. How many apprentices are being employed by the mining companies?</p> <p>Ms Constable: Every year?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: You can take that on notice—if you can give me some advice on the number of apprentices over the last five years, and company projections into the next five years, if that is possible, on their direct employment of apprentices. In relation to the \$170 billion worth of investment, are there any figures for engineering projects being built within Australia and what the value of those projects is? I am not talking about projects actually building the mine but about suppliers—steel supplies, engineering supplies—to the companies. This is basically the downstream manufacturing capacity for the mining industry. Is there a figure on that?</p> <p>Ms Constable: We can certainly get you those figures. The mining companies, in particular, source most of their local content from Australia as it relates to engineering activities. Thinking about a company yesterday talking about a specific new project, it can be as high as 85 per cent of their project; the local content is going to come from Australia. That is not unique in the mining industry per se. It is quite common for a large proportion of it—</p>	23	25/7/11	
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BR11	TA	Eggleston	Land and buildings	<p>Senator EGGLESTON: I welcome Tourism Australia here. Tourism is a very exciting activity in Australia. To go back to our last lot of estimates, I asked Mr Le Loux whether you owned any land or buildings. At the time I was told the answer was no. Yet the budget papers say, on page 146 for DRET, that the tourism portfolio has lands and buildings worth \$1.416 million; property, plant and equipment at \$578,000; intangibles at \$6,871,000; and other at \$977,000. Perhaps you could explain what those things are.</p> <p>Mr Le Loux: I am just trying to find the detail. I can confirm that we do not own any land and buildings. It is most likely to be about fit-outs of leased premises. I will confirm that.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON: Perhaps if you take it on notice and clear up the inconsistency for the shadow minister and me. The shadow minister, Mr Baldwin, asked a question in the House of Representatives on 25 November, 2010 about what corporate cost savings initiatives were identified but were not, and will not, be implemented. He eventually asked five questions. The last one was about the efficiency dividend, which I have just referred to, and it says 'nil'. Is there no efficiency dividend within your department—corporate cost savings initiatives?</p>	24	25/7/11	
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BR12	RET	Bushby/ Eggleston	Carbon Tax	<p>Senator BUSHBY: Mr McEvoy, in the discussions that you have had with industry, have they been with people who are actually at the coalface operating tourism?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: It is more just about getting an understanding of it and then, to your point, what the impacts will be. So, first, it is understanding and then, beyond that, the impacts. We will look forward to the report.</p> <p>Ms Madden: Perhaps I can just clarify: that report commissioned by the resilience working group is about the economic impacts of climate change on the tourism industry. It is not specifically about a carbon tax; it is about economic impacts of climate change potentially on the tourism industry.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON: But a carbon tax might well be part of that broader picture, I would have thought.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: It would become part of the study for the purpose of the study.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: Ms Madden, in that sense, they are being commissioned to look at the impacts of climate change. Is that on the assumption that it is unabated? What assumptions are built into what they are looking at? Are they looking at various scenarios of no action taken to try to mitigate carbon dioxide and similar gasses, or is it on the basis that there is action taken and the consequences then?</p> <p>Ms Madden: I do not have the request for tender and the scope of the work in front of me, so I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON: Is it possible to have those terms on notice?</p> <p>Ms Madden: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: Does it look at the consequences also of action taken to mitigate climate change?</p> <p>Ms Madden: As I have said, I will take the detailed questions on this study on notice; thank you.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: Thank you.</p>	31	25/7/11	
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BR13	RET	Pratt	Norfolk Island	<p>Senator PRATT: I appreciate the structural separation that exists, but I wonder what engagement the department and Tourism Australia have had with Norfolk Island of late?</p> <p>Ms Madden: Norfolk Island has observer status in the peak leadership forum, the tourism ministerial council and the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism. We liaise quite closely with Norfolk Island. They have had the opportunity to come to some key meetings. They also participated in Tourism Australia's recent Australian Tourism Exchange. Representatives from Norfolk Island, for example, will be attending the China summit next week in Cairns. So there is a range of engagement with Norfolk Island and the representatives there.</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: They came to the Australian Tourism Exchange and presented to about 700 international delegates from 40 countries. They were welcomed into that, from an Australian tourism opportunity point of view</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are any of you aware of when, I suppose, the last strategic review in terms of a holistic look at the situation of tourism at Norfolk Island was actually done?</p> <p>Ms Cox: I understand that—I do not have all the details, so we might have to take some of this on notice—in Norfolk Island at the moment they have such a review underway and they have been in contact with us for factual information. I cannot tell you when the last one was; it would be some years ago.</p>	31	25/7/11	
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BR14	RET	Pratt	Tax – tourism (Norfolk Island)	<p>Senator PRATT: I do not expect necessarily that you will have this, but in the process of looking at what reform means for Norfolk Island, it means that they need to come into our tax system. That means that all of the small-scale tourism operators really have no idea what that looks like for them. I would like to know whether that is on your radar yet and really whether you might have to do some quite unique work with them to educate them about, for example, what paying company tax means, on one hand, and how you can actually use tax deductions to invest in your tourism product—one of the problems being that some of the tourism product is quite tired and, in part, that is because their economy has fallen away, they have not had the incentives to reinvest and, in part, they do not have structural tax advantages to fix those problems.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: As I understand from my representational responsibilities with Minister Crean and the discussion that we had in estimates last week, that tax mix is currently under discussion and debate on the island itself about whether to introduce a range of taxes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, that is very much the case.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: Certainly, the department and Tourism Australia, I am sure, are very willing to provide advice on tourism related issues. But ultimately the tax issues, the tax base and the future of Norfolk Island will be determined separately. It will obviously have some impact. Once that is determined or there is a direction and a</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I largely agree with you, apart from the fact that, because so much of their economy is defined by tourism, in order to come to terms with the bigger picture questions of what their tax system looks like, they need to have an understanding of what tax means to tourism, in a sense.</p> <p>Mr Clarke: Just on that, I guess that in Australia, when those issues arise for Australian industry, it is often the industry groups like the Australian Tourism Export Council, the National Tourism Alliance and even the Tourism and Transport Forum that provide that sort of advice in an industry-to-industry peer way. It might be something that we can again—as the senator said—provide some advice around where they might get that sort of engagement.</p>	33	25/7/11	
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BR15	TA	Bushby	Efficiency dividend	<p>Senator BUSHBY: Thank you, Chair. I want to follow up on a couple of things that Senator Eggleston asked earlier. One of them was the efficiency dividend. I believe you mentioned that it was going to have an impact of about \$600,000. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: \$674,000 additional.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: That is over the forward estimates, is it?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: Per annum.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: That is per annum.</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: For year one.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: For year one. What impact will it have on the other lines using forward estimates?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: We will get that for you, Senator. We might take it on notice. In year two, it is \$1.428 million. In year three, 2013-14, it is \$1.859 million and in 2014-15 it is \$2.299 million.</p>	34	25/7/11	
BR16	TA	Bushby	Budget	<p>Senator BUSHBY: You say you have an improvement in your budget for next year. How does that compare with your historical budget, particularly since the last year of the Coalition government, say 2007? Are you back to where you were?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: I think we have taken this one on notice before. I might take it on notice and give you the answer, looking back to 2007 onwards.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: That is a long time ago.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: It was a long time ago but the value of the dollar—</p> <p>Senator Sherry: A lot of estimates ago too.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: The value of the dollar today is almost certainly less than it was in 2007. I suspect you may have had a higher budget, even in 2007 dollars, than you do now. If you could take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: I do not have that before me. I would be happy, on notice, to provide that.</p>	35	25/7/11	

BR17	RET	Bushby	Tourism Report	<p>Senator BUSHBY: I know. You are aware of that. You just had a discussion about that. What date was that report commissioned?</p> <p>Mr Calder: Senator, I would have to check the exact date. That report was commissioned probably six to eight months before it was released.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: So six to eight months before 15 March 2011?</p> <p>Mr Calder: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: We should take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: If you can find an exact date. That gives me an indication. How long did the report take to complete? Was it the six to eight month period between—</p> <p>Mr Calder: Yes.</p>	36	25/7/11	
BR18	RET	Eggleston	Chefs in training	<p>Senator EGGLESTON: There is not scope for increasing the numbers of chefs in training in Australia as part of a solution to this problem?</p> <p>Ms Madden: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Clarke: Oh, yes. It is not that the only solution is migration. This was about identifying what was the hot spot where flexibility in international labour coming into Australia would be desirable.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON: What would the demand be for more chefs in this country? Is it 200, 2,000, 5,000?</p> <p>Mr Clarke: We did that research as part of presenting the business case for the change. We are happy to take that one on notice and provide you with that data.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON: If you would, that would be interesting. Also going to 30 April 2011 again, is there national uniformity for responsible service of alcohol qualifications across the country? Have you achieved that goal?</p>	38	25/7/11	

BR19	TA	Eggleston	Implementation of the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy	<p>Senator EGGLESTON: Yes, obviously it is very important to do so. Having said that, I wonder whether, under all of these headings that I have just asked questions about, you can, on notice, provide a breakdown of the range of products under each heading.</p> <p>Mr Clarke: This is across the whole of the NLTTTS?</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON: Yes, if you could.</p> <p>Mr Clarke: I do refer you to the Communiqué from the 15 April meeting. I think it does that. I will look at that in the context of the <i>Hansard</i> record and see whether that is a sufficient response. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Madden: We have a copy of that Communiqué here we can table which summarises, as my secretary has said, the key outcomes.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON: We would be quite happy to accept that. But also if you could provide additional information, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Clarke: Of course.</p>	37-40	25/7/11	
BR20	GA	Colbeck	Scallop fishery	<p>Senator COLBECK: What about any conversations with the scallop fishery about the impacts of seismic testing in those regions and any work that they might be doing?</p> <p>Dr Pigram: They have not approached us.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: They have not approached you?</p> <p>Dr Pigram: No, not directly to Geoscience Australia.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Have you had any conversations with GeoScience Victoria about their operations and the potential impacts that they might be having?</p> <p>Dr Pigram: I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware of GA conversing with GeoScience Victoria on that topic.</p>	41	25/7/11	

BR21	GA	Colbeck	Scallop deaths	<p>Dr Foster: We are part of the environmental assessors forum—the group of people in the department. The Petroleum and Marine Division go along to APPEA meetings and so on, so they are engaged in that activity.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: So who sits around the table at that forum?</p> <p>Dr Foster: For Geoscience Australia, specialists from the Petroleum and Marine Division—the group leader, for example, in that area.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Who would bring expertise in marine science to that forum? These people, I assume, largely have expertise in the science of exploration.</p> <p>Dr Foster: No, they are marine scientists in their own right. For example, we have benthicocologists who work in Geoscience Australia in the marine group.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Is it an established, formal group or is it a group that is brought together on an as-needs basis?</p> <p>Dr Foster: In what connection is the question, Senator? Are you talking about the environmental aspect?</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: The environmental aspect to maintain your connection with the latest science such as the paper I just discussed, for example.</p> <p>Dr Foster: The Catalonia—</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: The Technical University of Catalonia, in Barcelona.</p> <p>Dr Foster: The group meet regularly, and they meet with APPEA and the department as well.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Has there been any discussion within that forum on the concerns about the scallop deaths in Bass Strait?</p> <p>Dr Foster: Not that I am aware of. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: You might have to do this on notice too. I understand that. Is it a formal membership that comes together or is it brought together on an as needs basis, this discussion group?</p> <p>Dr Foster: They are formal meetings, but I think the best thing is to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Again on notice, could you give me advice as to the membership of the group and how it is made up?</p> <p>Dr Foster: Yes.</p>	42	25/7/11	
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BR22	GA	Joyce	Coal seam gas	<p>Senator JOYCE: How much water will the coal seam gas projects currently underway remove from the Great Artesian Basin?</p> <p>Dr Pigram: I would have to take that on notice to get you a number.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: The water group in the department of the environment said that it could be up to 45,000 gigitalitres.</p> <p>Dr Pigram: It may well be. I would have to take that on notice to give you an exact number.</p>	43	25/7/11	
BR23	GA	Joyce	Re-injection of Water	<p>Dr Pigram: We were asked to comment on all of those issues. The report, if you read through it, is actually very conservative in the recommendations of requirements to be placed on industry. The primary recommendation in relation to the management of water was that, unless it could be otherwise demonstrated that there were no major impacts, it had to be reinjected. It had to be put back underground so that these effects could be minimised, if not removed altogether.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Are they reinjecting water at the moment?</p> <p>Dr Pigram: I am not aware that they are reinjecting water at the moment.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: So we are talking about something that nobody does.</p> <p>Dr Pigram: Reinjection of water is done in other locations. It is not being done in that region at the moment.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Whereabouts, Dr Pigram?</p> <p>Dr Pigram: Let me take that on notice and I will provide you with some information. I am not aware of it happening in the area that you are talking about, in the Surat and Bowen basins.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE: Are you aware of it happening in Australia?</p> <p>Dr Pigram: Elsewhere in Australia? I will take that on notice.</p>	44	25/7/11	
BR24	RET	Abetz	Staffing	<p>How many permanent staff recruited this FYTD?</p> <p>What classification are these staff?</p> <p>How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FYTD?</p> <p>This FYTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</p>	written	25/7/11	

		Staffing- efficiency dividend/budget Cuts	<p>Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what classification? Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.</p>			
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		Hospitality and Entertainment	<p>What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. What is the Department's entertainment spend FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p>			
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BR25	GA	Abetz	Staffing	<p>How many permanent staff recruited this FYTD?</p> <p>What classification are these staff?</p> <p>How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FYTD?</p> <p>This FYTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</p>	written	25/7/11	
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BR27	NOPSA	Abetz	Staffing	<p>How many permanent staff recruited this FYTD?</p> <p>What classification are these staff?</p> <p>How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FYTD?</p> <p>This FYTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</p>	written	25/7/11	
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			Government Advertising	<p>What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken, or are planning to undertake?</p> <p>For each program, what is the total spend?</p>			

		Hospitality and Entertainment	<p>What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</p> <p>For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.</p> <p>Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p> <p>What is the Department's entertainment spend FYTD?</p> <p>Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</p> <p>For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend FYTD.</p> <p>Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p>			
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			<p>Executive coaching and leadership training</p>	<p>In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each portfolio department and agency, please provide the following information FYTD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total spending on these services 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification 4. The names of all service providers engaged <p>For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and nature of the service purchased b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification d) The total number of hours involved for all employees e) The total amount spent on the service f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) <p>Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The location used ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location 			
			<p>Paid parental leave</p>	<p>Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?</p> <p>Please list which portfolio department and agencies are providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.</p>			

			Workpoint space	<p>For each portfolio department and agency office please list the occupied workpoint space allocated per person.</p> <p>Does this adhere to the Government's Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines (the Guidelines)? Explain. If yes, please explain if any refurbishment was required to meet the Guidelines and what the costs were.</p> <p>a. What savings did each portfolio department and agency achieve by meeting the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.</p> <p>b. How much of these savings has each portfolio department and agency kept? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately. If no, please give details why it does not, including whether an exemption has been received by the Finance Minister.</p> <p>a. What funding has been taken from each portfolio department and agency because they do not meet the Guidelines? Please itemise each portfolio department and agency separately.</p> <p>b. Are there plans to meet the Guidelines? Please explain.</p>			
BR29	RET	Birmingham	Origin Solar	Is the Department aware of Origin Solar's planned and/or announced relocation to Idaho?	written	25/7/11	
BR30	GA	Joyce	Coal Seam Gas	In reference to the report Geoscience Australia report with Dr. M.A. Habermahl titled "Summary of Advice in relation to the Potential Impacts of Coal Seam Gas Extraction in the Surat and Bowen Basin, Queensland." Could you explain the qualifications of your co-author, Dr. Habermahl?	written	25/7/11	
BR31	GA	Joyce	Report	Did you consult with any other experts or organisations in compiling your report? If so, who were they?	written	25/7/11	
BR32	GA	Joyce	National Water Commission	<p>The National Water Commission has raised concerns about the reinjection of water including that:</p> <p><i>"There is an associated risk that, if the water is overly treated, 'clean water' pollution of naturally turbid systems may occur."</i></p> <p>How significant is this risk?</p> <p>Would you recommend that water of "better quality" can be re-injected without significantly increasing the risk to environmental health?</p>	written	25/7/11	

BR33	RET	Heffernan	Wind Farms	As stated by Shirley In't Veld, Managing Director of Verve Energy (WA), the impact of one Wind Farm (Collgar), due to the variable wind power entering the balanced electricity grid, is estimated to be an additional \$26-27 million per annum to their operating costs. This doesn't include the construction expenditure. This will evidently place inflationary pressure on consumer electricity prices. Ultimately it would appear the impact the introduction of variable Wind Energy has is an increase to consumer power prices without any significant emission reductions being achieved. Can you confirm the anticipated percentage increase to existing power prices resulting from the introduction of wind energy	written	25/7/11	
BR34	RET	Birmingham	Funding for Organisations	Has the Department provided any funding to any of the following organisations in the current financial year or in any of the previous three financial years? If so, please detail when it was provided and for what purpose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Australian Conservation Foundation b. Australian Council of Trade Unions c. Australian Youth Climate Coalition d. Climate Action Network Australia e. The Climate Institute f. Environment Victoria g. GetUp! h. Greenpeace Australia Pacific i. World Wildlife Fund Australia 	written (received by RET on 1/8/11)	4/8/11	