

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
22-23 October 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Community Cabinet

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: SI-19

What was the cost of the Ministers' travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates?
How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for these Cabinet meetings?
What was the total cost of this travel?

ANSWER

There have been five Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates Hearings of 2-3 June 2008. Minister Carr and accompanying staff have travelled to four of these meetings. Minister Carr did not attend the Community Cabinet meeting held at Yirrkala, Northern Territory on Wednesday, 23 July 2008.

The total cost of the Minister's travel and expenses for the four Community Cabinet Meetings since Budget Estimates is **\$1836.81** (see **Attachment A**)

- For the Community Cabinet meeting held in Mackay, Queensland on 29 June 2008, two Ministerial staff travelled with the Minister to the meeting, and no Departmental or locally based staff attended this meeting.
- For the Community Cabinet meeting held in Hallett Cove, South Australia on 14 August 2008, two Ministerial staff travelled with the Minister to the meeting. Two locally based Departmental staff attended this meeting also – the AusIndustry State Manager; and the Enterprise Connect State Manager.
- For the Newcastle, New South Wales Community Cabinet meeting held on 29 September 2008, two Ministerial staff travelled with the Minister to the meeting. Two Departmental staff attended this meeting – the locally based Regional AusIndustry Manager, and the Assistant Regional manager who is also locally based.
- For the Launceston, Tasmania Community Cabinet Meeting held on 5 November 2008, two Ministerial staff travelled with the Minister to the meeting. Two Departmental staff attended this meeting - the Secretary, and the locally based AusIndustry State Manager.

The total cost of travel for Ministerial Staff and Departmental Officers who have attended the four Community Cabinet Meetings since the Budget Estimates on 2 and 3 June 2008 is: **\$8197.47**(see **Attachment A**).

ATTACHMENT A – Cost of Commercial Travel and Allowances, for Community Cabinet Meetings paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, as at 13 November 2008

Cost of commercial travel and allowances, for Community Cabinet Meetings, paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, as at 13 November 2008

Canning Vale WA ,Community Cabinet Meeting of 20 January 2008		
Traveller	Fares	Travelling Allowance
Senator the Hon Kim Carr	\$2,306.70	\$353.00
Senior Adviser - Industry	\$1,247.90	\$460.00
Senior Adviser – Science and Research	\$1,247.90	\$460.00
Total	\$4,802.50	\$1,273.00
Total		\$6,075.50

Penrith NSW, Community Cabinet Meeting of 15 April 2008		
Traveller	Fares	Travelling Allowance
Senator the Hon Kim Carr	\$460.43	\$405.00
Chief of Staff	\$208.09	\$319.00
Total	\$668.52	\$724.00
Total		\$1,392.52

Mackay, Community Cabinet Meeting of 29 June 2008		
Traveller	Fares	Travelling Allowance
Senator the Hon Kim Carr	\$27.27 ** (VIP Flight)	\$320.00
Senior Adviser - Industry	\$1,856.95 **	\$276.00
Media Adviser	\$1,373.53	nil
Total	\$3,257.75	\$596.00
Total		\$3,853.75

Hallett Cove SA, Community Cabinet Meeting of 14 August 2008		
Traveller	Fares	Travelling Allowance
Senator the Hon Kim Carr	\$513.42	nil
Senior Adviser - Innovation	\$331.98	nil
Chief of Staff	\$1,381.15	nil
AusIndustry State Manager, South Australia and Northern Territory	nil	nil
South Australia State Director, South Australia Manufacturing Centre, Enterprise Connect	nil	nil
Total	\$2,226.55	\$0.00
Total		\$2,226.55

Newcastle, Community Cabinet Meeting of 29 September 2008		
Traveller	Fares	Travelling Allowance
Senator the Hon Kim Carr	\$27.28 ** (VIP Flight)	nil
Senior Adviser - Industry	\$708.18 **	nil
Media Adviser	\$251.59	\$218.00
AusIndustry Regional Manager – Hunter Region	nil	nil
AusIndustry Assistant Regional Manager – Hunter Region	nil	nil
Total	\$987.05	\$218.00
Total		\$1,205.05

Launceston, Community Cabinet Meeting of 5 November 2008		
Traveller	Fares	Travelling Allowance
Senator the Hon Kim Carr	\$621.84	\$327.00
Secretary – Department of Innovation, Industry, Tourism and Resources	\$1,800.09	nil
AusIndustry State Manager - Tasmania	nil	Nil
Media Adviser	***	***
–Chief of Staff		***
Total		\$327.00
Total		\$2,748.93

Note 1. Without consultation with the travellers, the information in the table above relies on an assumption that all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Cabinet meetings, was for the purposes of attending the Cabinet meetings.

Note 2. The above figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance (including Motor Vehicle Allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge) or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).

Note 3. The financial information provided in the tables includes additional destinations for the Chief of Staff. Given the nature of the flight bookings, the cost of the additional destinations are not able to be disaggregated from the cost of travel to attend Community Cabinet meetings.

**Note 4. Several fares marked include a cancellation fee where travel booked for a Community Cabinet meeting was cancelled.

***Note 5. As at 26 November 2008, accounts for costs associated with travel to the Launceston Community Cabinet Meeting for two MOP(s) Act staff have not been received.