

SENATE ECONOMICS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS – 19 OCTOBER 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
SR1	RET / NOPSA	Siewert	Appointment of Environmental Officer to the NOPSEMA Advisory Board	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I suspect some of my questions may pre-empt your becoming NOPSEMA, so just tell me. When do you become NOPSEMA?</p> <p>Ms Cutler: On 1 January 2012.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Presumably by that time the person with environmental expertise will be on the board.</p> <p>Ms Cutler: Yes. The minister is going to appoint someone with environmental skills, knowledge and experience to the NOPSEMA advisory board, as it will be called at that time.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What is the time frame for that—by January?</p> <p>Ms Cutler: That would be a question for the minister.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Minister?</p> <p>Senator Sherry: I will have to take it on notice because I am not the minister. I am representing my colleague Mr Ferguson.</p> <p>Ms Cutler: I think the process has commenced.</p>	Page 70 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR2	RET / NOPSA	Siewert	Implementation of the Recommendations from the Montara Commission of Inquiry	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I would like to ask about the implementation of the recommendations of the Montara commission of inquiry that the government accepted. They have been through the process. There are a whole lot of recommendations here that are the responsibility of various agencies. Which of those have you picked up as NOPSA, which ones have been progressed and which ones will you be picking up in the future?</p> <p>Ms Cutler: There are a range of recommendations of the Montara commission of inquiry that were accepted in the whole-of-government response. They fall into a number of buckets. There are some to do with policy and regulatory development matters which fall to the department. There are some that apply to NOPSA and there are some that will apply to NOPSEMA in the future. There are some that apply to industry to be pursued on their own and some to be pursued in conjunction or consultation with NOPSA. I can talk to two buckets. We have had a number of conversations with APPEA around establishing a working group or committee of some of their members to jointly progress those that fall to us to progress. They are largely around better practice or improved practices in drilling operations. That work will leverage very strongly some of the international work that has been done in Europe to improve practices within the drilling community. There is a series of actions that fall to NOPSA, as it stands. I am due to report back to the minister towards the end of the year as to the status. They have all been commenced, but there are 105 recommendations, so I cannot number them and say which ones are progressed and are at what status. But all the ones that have fallen to us have been progressed. I can take the question on notice and provide a written response.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: That would be appreciated, if you could—against each of the recommendations.</p> <p>Ms Cutler: That fall to NOPSA.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: That fall to NOPSA, yes. And then, obviously, in February I will be asking you about the NOPSEMA ones.</p>	Page 71 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR3	RET / NOPSA	Siewert	Strikes of Marine Life during the Exploration/Development Process	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Okay, thank you. In terms of future practices—or maybe it is a current practice as well—when there are strikes, during the exploration process or during any of the development process, of marine mammals in particular, is that reported?</p> <p>Ms Cutler: I would have to take that on notice because, currently, we are not responsible for the environment regulations under the OPGGSA. I cannot answer that level of detail.</p>	Page 72 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR4	RET / NOPSA	Cameron	Fatigue in the Petroleum Industry	<p>Senator CAMERON: I think that it is really good. I had a look at your safety alerts going back to 2005. It is pretty good. One of the ones that gave me some concern—apart from the one about failing to avoid a cyclone, and I do not know how you do that too easily—was fatigue. This goes back to 2005. There was a report of workers working 22 hours, including travel, and blacking out because of fatigue. Have there been updates on this alert since 2005? Is there any evidence that this issue of fatigue in the industry has been resolved?</p> <p>Ms Cutler: We periodically as part of our routine of inspections look at occupational health issues such as fatigue, noise and other matters. But we have not run, if you like, a specific campaign on fatigue in the two years that I have been CEO.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So it is not a problem, then?</p> <p>Ms Cutler: I am not saying that it is not a problem; I am just saying that we have not run a specific campaign on it.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I know that it is a bit of time ago now, but that alert alerted me that there was a problem in the industry. Could you take on notice as to what is being done by companies to avoid fatigue and advise whether there are any incidence of workers working 22-hour stretches in the offshore petroleum industry.</p> <p>Ms Cutler: Sure.</p>	Page 74 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR5	RET	Bushby	Clean Energy Package and Impact on the Coal Industry	<p>Senator BUSHBY: I will ask the same question about the passage of the clean energy package of bills and its impact on the coal industry. Have you conducted any assessment or have you formed any view of what impact will occur there?</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: I think the minister is on the record as saying it is possible that some highly emitting mines may close. I would refer to my earlier comments about the continued capital investment in the sector since and the continued high premium merger and acquisition takeover activity in the sector. The volumes of exports continue to increase and the sector continues to do well. The government has made a considerable investment of assistance with the coal sector jobs package. I can bring an officer to talk in further detail about that package to support both regions and jobs in respect of areas affected.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: What are those projections based on? You quoted the minister, but what evidence did you have on which to base those projections?</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: If I could, I would take the detail of that analysis of emissions by mine on notice.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: Was that analysis done within your department, or was it done elsewhere?</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: I will take that on notice and get back to you on that.</p>	Page 77 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR6	RET	Bushby	Clean Energy Package and Impact on the Iron Ore Industry	<p>Senator BUSHBY: I will ask the same questions again in respect of iron ore. What impact does the department believe the passage of the clean energy package of bills will have on the iron ore industry, and have you done any assessment of that?</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: Again, I will take the detail of the analysis on notice. I would again talk about the continued investment in both mines and port infrastructure that the major iron ore operators in the Pilbara—both BHP and Rio—are conducting. In our contact with them we have seen no change in those plans to continue substantial expansions of port facilities and mines in the iron ore sector.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: What did you indicate that you were going to take notice?</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: The specific analysis, but I made the general comment that our standing engagement with the sector is around continued investment and growth in port infrastructure and mining infrastructure.</p> <p>Ms Constable: Can I just add to Mr Hoffman's comments about the gaseous mines and where we may have drawn that information from originally. In the numbers that were provided we used the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's national inventory list. The top 25 mines are on that particular list.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: I appreciate that, Ms Constable. Mr Hoffman quoted a number of other things as well which I would appreciate still receiving on notice.</p> <p>Ms Constable: Sure.</p>	Pages 77-78 19 Oct 2011	29/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR7	RET	Siewert	Implementation of the recommendations from the Montara Commission of Inquiry	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I would like to follow up on the questions I was asking NOPSA about the implementation of the recommendations (<i>Montara</i>). I would like to ask how you are handling your process overall and then go to some of the specific recommendations that I think the department would be responsible for.</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: You would be aware that the final government response included the implementation plan for the accepted recommendations. The department and the other agencies involved in that are working to that. The minister has made various public statements since that time about specific matters in that implementation plan that have been achieved, and I would imagine that he will continue to do so as the work is done. I think you asked a specific question about whether there would be a formal government statement as to the status of implementation of the recommendations that were accepted. That is a question that I would direct to the minister. I am not aware that such a decision has been made, but it is one that the minister may well consider.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Is that another one you could take on notice, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Sherry: Yes.</p>	Page 79 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR8	RET	Cameron	Minerals Council Report	<p>Ms Constable: The Minerals Council of Australia certainly hold that information. The resource councils around Australia hold it in relation to their states. Also, companies report on it. So there is a range of data. What is not there is data across all of those areas for Australia. I have pointed out that a database is currently being developed. That is being driven by the department at the moment to ensure that that information is brought together.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So you are trying to deal with the carnage in the industry.</p> <p>Ms Constable: We are trying to make sure that there is consistent national data across Australia.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: When you say that the Minerals Council 'hold' this, do they publish it?</p> <p>Ms Constable: Information is available on their website, so in that respect it is published.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I have had a look and I cannot find it in their annual report. When you try to find the report it takes you to their annual report, and then it is all just rhetoric.</p> <p>Ms Constable: I am not sure exactly where you will find it there.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I may not be able to find it. If you have it could you point us to where we can find it, so we can see what the Minerals Council is actually doing in relation to the industry. I am not sure if you were here for NOPSA?</p>	Page 82 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR9	RET	Ludlam	Uranium Council Projects	<p>Ms Constable: It is the Uranium Council; they have changed the name. There is no formal process in place bilaterally with the Western Australian government on uranium mine issues other than through the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth has a responsibility there. We of course work within the ministerial council on energy and resources on broad resource issues that from time to time provide information or work related to uranium, such as abandoned mines, which also takes into account uranium mines.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Could you table for us the proposed work plan or next phase of work for that Uranium Council. Is there something that you could put in writing for us?</p> <p>Ms Constable: We can provide that. Would you like the projects?</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Yes, projects and activities. That would be great; we appreciate it.</p>	Pages 83-84 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR10	RET	Ludlam	Sale of Uranium	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Thank you. Could you provide for us the criteria by which the Australian government would preclude sales of uranium to a state whether or not they had signed on to the NPT, please.</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: That is one that we will take on notice.</p>	Page 84 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR11	RET	Ludlam	HRL Dual Gas Project	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Since winning the LETDF grant in 2007, has the government advanced or committed any funds to HRL other than this grant, that you are aware of?</p> <p>Ms Sewell: No, not that we are aware of.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Not that you are aware of. Could you take on notice to confirm that for the record?</p> <p>Ms Sewell: Yes.</p>	Page 86 19 Oct 2011	29/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR12	RET	Ludlam	LETDF Grant Allocation Process	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Without going into hypothesis, will the review be independent or conducted by the department? If it is by the department, by who?</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: It will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the LETDF program, which sets it out. I believe that the decision making process is done within the department.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Could you tell us on notice if there is any variation to what is understood to be the process of the grant allocation and who specifically—which unit, sub-unit, office or whatever—will undertake that review? Will it include recommendations on whether the grant agreement should be rescinded or withdrawn? I take it that would be the point of undertaking the review.</p> <p>Mr Hoffman: That is one logical outcome or one possible outcome, yes.</p>	Page 86 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR13	RET	Urquhart	Tourism - Digital Distribution	<p>Senator Sherry: Just in the interests of time I will not go through it, but there is some work on digital distribution, which I carry also with my portfolio responsibilities for small business. But I will not go to the detail of that in the interests of time.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you very much for providing that information. That would be really helpful.</p>	Page 90 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR14	RET / TA	Ronaldson	Reduction of spending on Trade Events in India and China	<p>Senator RONALDSON: Mr McEvoy, I understand that in a recent radio interview with Peter Ryan you talked about the importance of marketing to India, which brings me to the question asked by Senator Urquhart about your commitment to the Chinese market. Is it correct that the spend on trade events in both China and India was reduced over the 2009-10 and 2010-11 years from, in China's case, some \$440,000 down to \$357,000 and, in India's case, from \$430,000 down to \$203,000?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: I would have to look at the specific spend on trade events. But it is safe to say that we have actually increased our spending in both China and India over the last two financial years and plan to continue to put more resources into it. Regarding the way that money is spent I will take it on notice. We can give you—</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: So you are suggesting there has been a gross increase?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: We are probably focused very much on the consumer, building 'brand Australia', 'reputation Australia' and the appeal of Australia. I would have to look specifically at that. I would actually be surprised, but I will take it on notice and we will come back with the detail.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: How would you rate the importance of trade events in Australia versus overseas? Should one be given priority over the other?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: I think you have to do both. In the market we run these Aussie specialist programs to get the trade engaged. It is no good exciting a consumer if the travel agent or online seller or wholesaler cannot sell you a destination. So we have to do a lot of that. But I think the Australian based shows are terrific, too. The classic example is the Australian Tourism Exchange, where we get 600 or 700 international distributors to our country. So, apart from meeting 700 or so Australian suppliers, they physically go and look at the product, which I think is really important. Next year's Australian Tourism Exchange will be in Perth. When the operators come out from all around the world not only do they meet with the Australian suppliers from throughout the country but they will go and physically look at the Western Australian products. I think both are important.</p>	Page 90 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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			<p>Senator RONALDSON: Which is more important: the overseas paid events or the Australian ones?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: I think they are equally important. I know that sounds like sitting on the fence, but it is true.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: There is not equal apportionment of money, though, is there?</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: No, it would not be exactly equal.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: No, exactly, because in 2010 you spent \$2.86 million on domestic trade events and then that jumped to \$4.832 million in 2010-11. So, there is quite a significant difference in the allocation of resources between the two. There is no equality, from what you were saying. If you look at those figures it is very heavily skewed towards the Australian trade events. Given the alleged importance of the Chinese market I cannot quite understand why you would slash the trade events there.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: You said 'alleged importance'. I think the evidence shows very strongly just how important the Chinese market is—and indeed a number of other markets.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Let's wait and see what the figures are and we can make a judgment on it.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: We know the figures on China and I am sure Mr McEvoy can give them to you.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Mr McEvoy cannot provide them.</p> <p>Mr McEvoy: I can provide them. We will provide them. But I think there are also some vagaries in those statistics in that it is equally important to bring the trade to Australia to see the product for themselves. There are shows within that. I will give you the detail of it. For example, there is a show, Corroboree, which one year will be held up in market and another year will be held in Australia. So, we are actually taking the Australian product to the market and in other years we bring the distributors to Australia. The other one of those figures I would argue with is that we run a big business events show called Dreamtime. That happens every two years, and I would say that is in the numbers, as well. But we will provide the details.</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR15	RET	Ronaldson	Tabling of the State of the Industry Report	<p>Ms Madden: A preliminary draft was provided to the minister's offices on 21 June. But may I also note that the investment report to which you are referring was one of five reports released from the ministerial council on last Friday, 14 October.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: So there are other reports?</p> <p>Ms Madden: Other reports were released—</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: And what were they about?</p> <p>Ms Madden: Two I have mentioned already. There is the <i>State of the industry</i> report, which I am happy to table. It was a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and opportunity facing the industry. That was released prior to the—</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Would you think that was a main issue facing the sector—those three you have nominated for me so far?</p>	Page 92 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR16	RET	Ronaldson	Drafts of Tourism Reports sent to Minister's Office	<p>Senator RONALDSON: But you had the draft report (<i>Tourism Investment and Regulation Review</i>) from 21 June. Just out of interest, Ms Madden: these are the reports that were released prior to this one; when were the draft reports sent to the ministers in relation to those?</p> <p>Ms Madden: When those reports were presented—</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Why won't you answer my question?</p> <p>Ms Madden: I am trying to answer it, if I have a chance.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: All I want is a date.</p> <p>Ms Madden: They had to be considered by the Investment and Regulatory Reform Working Group, which is meeting in July and August to make recommendations to the ministers.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: When were the drafts sent, Ms Madden?</p> <p>Senator Sherry: If we do not have a date immediately at hand, we will get you that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Madden: It was 21 June, as I said earlier.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: So they were all sent on 21 June. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Madden: No. The one that you are referring to, the investment report—</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: No, the other one—when were the other ones sent?</p> <p>Ms Madden: I would have to check on that.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: If we cannot get the dates immediately we will take it on notice and get you the dates they were sent to ministers' offices, and state ministers as well. But I can assure you that due process was followed. You seem to be concerned about disclosure of information or communication of information.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: I know you are just doing your job.</p>	Pages 92-93 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR17	RET	Ronaldson	Draft Impact of the Carbon Tax on the Tourism Industry – sent to the Minister’s Office	<p>Senator RONALDSON: I can assure you that was the only thing I was referring to! At the last Senate estimates my esteemed colleague on my left here, Senator Eggleston, asked: Has Tourism Research Australia been asked to model the impacts of a carbon tax on the tourism industry? Ms Madden replied: No, it has not. Some of the work, though, by the resilience working group, under the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy, looks at climate change and possible impacts. That work has not been finalised yet. It was awarded to an economic consultancy, Frontier Economics, through a competitive tendering process. When that work is finalised, it will be forwarded through to the ministerial council. It is our intention to publish the research on the website in due course. I take it from that, Ms Madden—and if I am misquoting you, tell me—you are looking at the impact of climate change but you are not looking at the impact of a carbon tax. Am I putting words into your mouth? Ms Madden: At the previous meeting we did have an exchange as you have outlined. You asked me for the terms of reference for the study, which I did not have but which we subsequently provided. As you would have been able to see from those terms of reference, it was a broader analysis that was required. TRA still has not done modelling on the carbon tax, but that report is progressing. Senator RONALDSON: I take it from that that you will be doing a study on the impacts of the carbon tax? Ms Madden: No. The Frontier Economics study is a broader one. The modelling work on the impact of the carbon tax has been done by the Treasury and questions relating to the modelling impacts of the carbon price, as I think Senator Sherry mentioned, need to be directed to the Treasury. Senator RONALDSON: Surely if you are having a broad inquiry you would include something like the carbon tax because it would only be if you were having a narrow inquiry that you would not. Senator BUSHBY: Indeed, Senator Sherry said at the last estimates that the impact of the carbon tax 'would become part of the study for the purpose of the study'.</p>	Page 96 19 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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				<p>Senator RONALDSON: Ah!</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: I am just making the point that, looking at the terms of reference that you sent through, they do not appear to me to have anything to do with the impact of carbon tax abatement.</p> <p>Senator Sherry: I do not think there is necessarily any conflict or difference in approach or commentary. You have come to that conclusion, but I do not accept the validity of that conclusion.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: When is the report due? When will it be released?</p> <p>Ms Madden: No decision has been made about the release of that report at this point.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: Was it presented at the ministerial council meeting we discussed earlier?</p> <p>Ms Madden: Ministers do have access to that report.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: What was that date?</p> <p>Ms Madden: I do not have the date in front of me.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: When was the draft received?</p> <p>Senator Sherry: We will have to take that on notice. We will get those dates for you.</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR18	RET	Cameron	Number of Overseas Workers in the Mining Industry	<p>In answer to question BR9 from the 2011 Budget estimates the Department indicated that there were 3020 s.457 visa workers in the mining industry to April 2011.</p> <p>Can the Department provide a breakdown of the occupations in which these workers are employed?</p> <p>Does the Department have any updated estimates of the number of s.457 workers that will be employed in the mining industry in 2011-12 and the occupations in which they will be employed?</p>	Written 21 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR19	RET	Cameron	Mining Industry Training Effort	<p>In answer to BR10 (2011 Budget estimates), the Department provided figures about the training effort of the mining industry.</p> <p>Can the Department provide a breakdown of training places in the industry by occupation? (eg. trainee cleaners, apprentice chefs, apprentice fitters, apprentice boilermakers etc.)</p> <p>Can the department provide a breakdown of training places in the mining industry by Australian Qualification Framework level?</p>	Written 21 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR20	RET / GA	Siewert	Isobath Line along WA Coast	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please outline the latest work to establish the 200m isobath line along the WA Coast? 2. When was this work undertaken? 3. When was this work supplied to AFMA? 4. What role has GeoScience Australia played in renegotiating the Offshore Constitutional Settlement with the WA Government since 1995? 5. Is GeoScience Australia aware that all reference to the 200m isobath line were removed in the 1998 OCS with WA? 6. Was this reference removed on the advice of Geoscience? 	Written 21 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR21	RET / NOPSA	Siewert	Whale Strikes on the Wheatstone Project	Are you going to require the Wheatstone oil platform record whale strikes, turtle strikes and dugong strikes?	Written 21 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR22	RET	Siewert	Cetacean Data and Seismic Surveys in Oil and Gas Lease Assessments	<p>Please provide information on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The amount in kilometres of seismic surveys tracts in the last 5 years in the North-west marine bioregion? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number / percentage of those conducted at night-time 2. Before release of new petroleum leases, geophysical assets are mapped out for prospective areas. Is any equivalent analysis conducted to identify biodiversity/environment assets for those areas to be included with information released with these leases? If so, what is the process? 3. The number of vessel movements in the North-west marine bioregion in last five years, broken down by year and by port of departure? 4. The number of ship strikes of marine mammals in the North-west marine bioregion reported to the department in the last 5 years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What percentage of actual ship strikes do the department estimate these figures actually represent, given known under-reporting of incidents? 5. The number of incidental spills by petroleum operators in the North-west marine bioregion in the last five years? 6. How many surveys of cetaceans (or biodiversity surveys including cetaceans) have been provided to the department by external sources in last five years for the North-west marine bioregion? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where in the department these surveys are received? - Whether these are made available to public? 	Written 21 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR23	RET	Bushby	Proposed Heritage Listing of Tarkine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the department had any involvement in the proposed heritage listing of the Tarkine in Tasmania? 2. Has the department done any modelling on the economic impacts if the area is listed? 3. Has the department received any feedback from companies regarding the possible heritage listing? 4. Does the department know how many mining exploration permits have been granted this year? How many are waiting on approval? 5. What impact would such a listing have on the ability to extract minerals from or near the region? What impact will it have on attracting investment in the sector? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR24	RET / TA	Bushby	Qantas Strike Action – Impact on Tourism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does Tourism Australia agree that the QANTAS strike action, and threats of strikes not carried through, will have a negative impact on tourism? 2. Will the forecasting committee, or Tourism Research Australia, be conducting any research on the effect of the QANTAS industrial relations dispute, and what strikes and strike threats, mean for domestic and inbound Tourism? If so, will that be made public? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR25	RET	Bushby	Carbon Tax – Tourism	<p>Carbon Tax – Has Tourism Research Australia been asked to model the impact of the carbon tax on the tourism sector? At the last estimates Senator Eggleston asked TRA:</p> <p><i>Senator EGGLESTON: Has Tourism Research Australia been asked to model the impacts of a carbon tax on the tourism industry?</i></p> <p><i>Ms Madden: No, it has not. Some of the work, though, by the resilience working group, under the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy, looks at climate change and possible impacts. That work has not been finalised yet. It was awarded to an economic consultancy, Frontier Economics, through a competitive tendering process. When that work is finalised, it will be forwarded through to the ministerial council. It is our intention to publish the research on the website in due course.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has Tourism Research Australia been asked by the Minister to do any modelling on the effects of the carbon tax? 2. At the last estimates Ms Madden said that the resilience working group was doing some work on the carbon tax via a consultancy with Frontier Economics. 3. How much was Frontier Economics awarded to undertake the research? 4. Will Frontier economics be talking to anyone in industry? 5. Where is it up to? 6. When will it be available? 7. Did the contract that was awarded to Frontier Economics go to tender? 8. If so, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) on what basis was it awarded (eg, lowest price, quality of previous work)? (b) Who else pitched for this work, and what did they quote? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR26	RET	Bushby	Carbon Tax Modelling – Tourism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has Tourism Research Australia approached treasury to access its carbon tax model so that TRA can better understand the impact of the carbon tax on the industry? 2. Has TRA asked Treasury to undertake any modelling on the impact of the carbon tax on the tourism sector? 3. Is TRA aware of any modelling done by Treasury on the impact of the Carbon Tax on the Tourism Sector? 4. What modelling has been done by Treasury? 5. What information has been received from Treasury on the Impact of the Carbon Tax? 6. Officers from Tourism Research Australia mentioned the impact that changes in discretionary spending would have on the tourism sector and said that because there wasn't going to be a large change in discretionary spending there wouldn't be a change on the sector. As a majority of tourism operators are small businesses, what modelling has TRA done on the impact of the carbon tax on small business? 7. Is Tourism Research Australia aware of any direct compensation measures for the tourism sector within the Carbon Tax Bills? 8. At Budget Estimates, Ms Madden said that the Frontier Economics Report on the impact of climate change would be made public and put on the website however at Estimates this week Ms Madden said that no decision had been made on the reports release. Could you please confirm whether the report will be made public. 9. If the report is to be made public when will it be made public? 	Written 27 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR27	RET / TA	Bushby	Marketing to India	<p>1. According to Tourism Research Australia, by 2030 inbound growth in Australia is likely to be dominated by visitors from China and India. Is this true?</p> <p>2. TRA has forecast the value of the China and India source markets will grow from \$2.2 billion in 2007 to \$14 billion in 2030. Is this true?</p> <p>3. Mr McEvoy, in a Radio interview with Peter Ryan you talked of the importance of marketing to India to improve relations since the race riots in Melbourne several years ago now. Yet, in a response to a question in Additional Estimates in February 2011, it appears that the spend on Trade Events in both China and India (key markets) was reduced over the 09/10 and 10/11 financial years:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="913 616 1476 764"> <thead> <tr> <th>Market</th> <th>2009/10 (AU\$)</th> <th>2010/11 (AU\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>China</td> <td>440,000</td> <td>357,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>430,000</td> <td>203,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>First, with respect to India:</p> <p>(a) what was the thinking behind our decision to reduce marketing to a key target market at a time when many people would argue we should have been investing more?</p> <p>(b) Who made this decision – was it the Minister or Tourism Australia?</p> <p>(c) Was the boost in marketing spend in Australia geared towards reaching Indian market-focused stakeholders. For example, did the “megafamil” (to familiarise stakeholders with our market by hosting stakeholders here in Australia) include many Indian travel agents and others focused on the Indian market?</p>	Market	2009/10 (AU\$)	2010/11 (AU\$)	China	440,000	357,000	India	430,000	203,000	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
Market	2009/10 (AU\$)	2010/11 (AU\$)														
China	440,000	357,000														
India	430,000	203,000														

				<p>4. Turning now to China, and concerning Tourism Australia's capacity within its current funding for effective marketing efforts in China; we saw at the Tourism Directions Conference last week that there is a huge diversity within Chinese markets that all need attention. If Tourism Australia is to do this, in what the government and everyone else is saying is the most significant market for potential growth, then with their current funding they are limited in what they can achieve, in spite of their best efforts?</p> <p>5. Spending on trade events held here in Australia appears to have jumped from \$2,860,000 to \$4,832,000. Can you provide a breakdown of activities to account for this increased spend.</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR28	RET / TA	Bushby	Marketing to India and Digital Marketing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With respect to getting the sector “digital ready” and fostering improvements in Internet and Communications Technology: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) How many ‘unique visits’ does Tourism Australia’s website attract (as opposed to “hits” which also includes movement between pages)? (b) is the Tourism Australia site well-integrated with State marketing websites -- does Tourism Australia review links to state government tourism sites and Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) to ensure comprehensive information flow coming into the site? (c) How well integrated with Regional Tourism Organisation websites is the Tourism Australia website? 2. Has Tourism Australia reviewed its website to ensure user friendly navigation so those seeking out specifics can be directed to them in a consistent way? 3. Does the Tourism Australia Website conform with Australian Government Information Management Office <i>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines</i> for access by people with a disability? 4. Has Tourism Australia ever reported to AGIMO on its conformity with the AGIMO National Transition Strategy? 5. If so, when? How often are these reports completed? If not, why not? 6. Does Tourism Australia engage the Tourism Data Warehouse to ensure the best sharing of data amongst the sector’s public and private sector websites? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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			<p>7. If there's advantage to be had in better linking Tourism Australia, State destination marketing sites and RTO sites, has the Department considered the value in a comprehensive audit of all external businesses – from event marketers to accommodation service providers, restaurants and so forth to support holiday planners?</p> <p>8. Is Tourism Australia aware of</p> <p>(a) any criticism about underperformance in providing information in key target foreign languages on the internet?</p> <p>(b) other countries (where English is the main language) providing information in target languages such as Arabic, Mandarin and Korean?</p> <p>9. Is Tourism Australia aware of what our competitors are doing well in this area, for example TA's counterparts in Canada provide good content in this area, and Tourism NZ has done an excellent job in ensuring inbound tourists going there for the World Cup are provided information on events elsewhere in New Zealand</p> <p>10. Turning now to social media. Andrew McEvoy, you were interviewed by ABC journalist Peter Ryan about efforts to pitch to the Indian market recently.</p> <p>(a) Does Tourism Australia, actively use social media to drive traffic to its sites, to drive interest in Australia as a holiday destination, or protect Australia's reputation as a online?</p> <p>(b) Does Tourism Australia conduct research on specific markets to inform its marketing strategy?</p> <p>(c) What about Blog Marketing?</p> <p>(d) Does Tourism Australia ensure that sites like Trip Adviser are regularly reviewed for content about Australian destinations?</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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			<p>11. Last year, Austrade undertook a social media audit where they discovered significant ongoing commentary about Australia on the social media site “Orkut” and elsewhere (in relation to Indian students subjected to racism and violence in Melbourne since 2008). Did Austrade inform Tourism Australia or the Department of Resources Energy and Tourism about this?</p> <p>12. If so, what did Tourism Australia do with this information?</p> <p>13. Does Tourism Australia engage with a range of social networking platforms to sell its messages, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Australia: Facebook, Twitter (b) India: Facebook, Orkut, Hi5 (Twitter is a close fourth) (c) China: QQ, Xiaonei, 51 (d) Russia: V Kontakte, Odnoklassniki, LiveJournal (e) Spain: Facebook, Tuenti, Fotolog (f) United Kingdom: Facebook, Bebo (g) United States: Facebook, Twitter <p>14. Has Tourism Australia considered, in addition to its 'generic' Facebook page, a suite of 'fan pages' aimed at a few key target language and experience-focused groups?</p> <p>15. If so, what is the estimated cost of maintaining a programme like this?</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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			<p>16. A program broadcast on ABC radio called <i>Don't trust the web</i> (18 September 2011) covered the topic of "Astroturfing". It alleged that a representative employed at an advertising agency had been caught commenting on an individual's blog spruiking the Tourism Australia Website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is Tourism Australia aware of the allegation against the agency? b. What was the name of the advertising agency involved? c. What campaign were they advertising? d. What was the company involved hired to do? e. How much has the advertising agency in question been paid for its services? f. What was the length of the contract? g. How long after finding out about this action did Tourism Australia keep the company concerned engaged? h. Is this agency in question still engaged by Tourism Australia? i. Have they been engaged at all since the event occurred? 		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR29	RET	Bushby	Red Tape Reduction – Tourism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the Department undertaken any reviews in the past year to determine the effects of red tape on the Tourism sector’s businesses? 2. If so, what were the results? 3. How about any other red tape reduction reviews for Tourism since 2007? 4. Please list all policy initiatives, programs or projects, introduced since March 2007, that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) requires Tourism and Hospitality operators to fill out paperwork; (b) requires Tourism and Hospitality operators to obtain licenses; (c) requires having multiple people or committees approve a decision for the sector’s operators to do business; or (d) have applied rules that make conducting tourism and hospitality businesses slower, more difficult, or both. 5. In the same timeframe, is the Department aware of any other requirement for "filing and certification, reporting, investigation, inspection and enforcement practices, and procedures", that might be considered “red tape” by the sector? If so, what are they? 6. Has the Department considered ways it can streamline engagement for Tourism and Hospitality businesses; for example through a ‘one-stop shop’ for licensing requirements? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR30	RET / TA	Bushby	Tourism matters arising from the 2011 Budget	<p>1. In this year's budget the government has provided \$8 million over two years for Community Heritage Grants to assist the conservation of local heritage sites. Was any of this funding earmarked to promote travel to experience these locations? Has the Department considered extracting value for the sector in this way?</p> <p>2. Of the \$11.8 million that was allocated to Wine Australia Corporation in this year's budget, will the total amount be spent on marketing Australian wine to consumers, or will some money be earmarked for marketing the Upper Hunter, Margaret River, Barossa and other wine tourism destinations? If not, does this not represent a significant missed opportunity for the tourism sector?</p> <p><i>Also linked to program 4 objective of 'working collaboratively with stakeholders to support the development of sustainable Indigenous tourism businesses':-</i></p> <p>3. With respect to Indigenous Business Australia:</p> <p>(a) Does RET or Tourism Australia engage with IBA?</p> <p>(b) What focus does Australia bring to market holiday destinations, activities or businesses which would have a unique selling proposition in terms of Indigenous involvement?</p> <p>(c) \$200.3 million was allocated in this year's budget to Indigenous Business Australia, up from \$167.2 million in 2010-11. While its goal was to become non-dependent on federal budgetary outlays, IBA is now in receipt of hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer funds. Yet, no break-down has been provided in the budget papers as to how IBA would spend this money across its portfolio of transport, mining, laundry, fishing, tourism and other projects under management. Is the Department aware of IBA-funded tourism and hospitality projects being funded, and if so, how are you supporting these?</p>	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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			<p>4. In this year's budget, there was a general decline in funding allocated to national cultural Institutions resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$30.0 million for the Australian National Maritime Museum; \$51.8 million for the National Gallery of Australia; and \$47.0 million for the National Museum of Australia. <p>(a) Does Tourism Australia obtain the forward exhibition programs for these institutions and promote these on the Tourism Australia website?</p> <p>(b) If not, why not? Surely we should extract value for money for the taxpayer in this way?</p> <p>(c) In terms of regional arts events – even large events like the Dungog Film Festival are not promoted on Tourism Australia's website. What does Tourism Australia do to promote regional arts to the travelling public?</p> <p>5. As announced in the budget, the government will cut \$34.0 million over four years from the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service by reducing passenger facilitation staff at Australia's international airports. Furthermore, the government will cut the operating budget of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service by \$36 million during 2011-12.</p> <p>(a) Has the Department considered how this might impact on slower processing of inbound tourists, creating a poor first impression of Australia for international visitors?</p> <p>(b) Has the Department sought information from either Customs and Border Protection, Department of Immigration, or from the airports on this?</p> <p>(c) Has the Department considered the combined effect of cuts to passenger processing combined with the Passenger Movement Charge, and what impact has had on inbound tourist numbers?</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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			<p><u>Working with other Government agencies to ensure infrastructure development contributes to the competitiveness of the tourism sector</u></p> <p>6. In this year's budget, \$28.0 million over two years was invested in extending the Regional Aviation Access Program for safety upgrades to remote and isolated airstrips across Australia. This might offer some Tourism opportunities if it makes new locations available to holidaymakers.</p> <p>(a) Does the Department know where this money is being spent?</p> <p>(b) Will the Department be putting in a bid for some of this money to be spent to open up new experiences for travellers (if it isn't already allocated to projects)</p> <p>(c) Is the Department aware that several of Australia's smaller airports are keen to receive this sort of assistance to benefit Tourism?</p> <p>7. The government has deferred the start date of the Tax Break for Green Buildings scheme to July 2012. This deferral is estimated to save \$295 million however the overall support for this measure will be maintained at \$1 billion.</p> <p>(a) The Green Buildings scheme could have been geared to construction or refurbishment of tourism accommodation to capitalise on global trend towards eco-tourism. Are these discussions happening internally?</p> <p>8. In the budget the Government announced the regional Sponsored Migration Scheme will support 16,000 places under the Employer Sponsored Program.</p> <p>(a) Is the Department aware of criticism from the Restaurant Catering Association of Australia that 'chefs' and 'cooks' have been excluded from the occupations list that would allow restaurateurs to sponsor such staff?</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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				<p>(b) Is the department also aware of the views of groups like Tourism Training Australia, since the list is the same one that forms the basis for government assistance for training?</p> <p>(c) Does the Department agree that reform in this area is urgently required – a view expressed in the Tourism Investment and Regulatory Review report, published on Friday last week?</p> <p>9. The Government announced \$5.9 million was allocated to implement a new Skilled Migration Selection Model. The model is to take effect on 1 July 2012 subject to legislation.</p> <p>(a) has the Department considered impacts on the tourism and hospitality sector (for trades other than food preparation)?</p> <p>(b) Has the Department considered impacts on the tourism and hospitality sector (for trades other than food preparation)?</p> <p>(c) Given many people in the sector stress the need for Tourism and Hospitality to be considered desirable lifelong professions – rather than jobs that are done by university students as a stepping stone to better paid work – what’s being done by DRET to improve the standing of the sector’s professions?</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR31	RET / TA	Bushby	Tourism Australia – Staff	<p>1. In respect of Tourism Australia, how many staff are employed in each of the 7 bands?</p> <p>2. For <u>each</u> band, please indicate what number are ongoing, non-ongoing, and what their job titles, common law agreement start and end dates, office locations and salary ranges are.</p> <p>3. Please provide this information as at: 30 June 2007; 30 June 2008; 30 June 2009; 30 June 2010; 30 June 2011;</p>	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR32	RET	Bushby	National Long Term Tourism Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did the Jackson Review cost the taxpayer? 2. How many (full time or equivalent) DRET staff were put at the disposal of the committee to assist in its work 3. What were the recommendations of the Jackson Review to inform Australia's Long Term Tourism Strategy? 4. Given the ongoing work of the Working Groups set up to deliver the NLTTTS, what is the anticipated timeline on delivering the National Long Term Tourism Strategy 5. Can you explain the links between each of the 10 recommendations of the <i>Jackson Review</i> and the National Long Term Tourism Strategy? 6. What recommendations of the Jackson Review were not adopted in the National Long Term Tourism Strategy? 7. How well progressed is RET in responding to all of the recommendations of the <i>Jackson Review</i>? 8. Minister -- should tourism sector stakeholders expect that, eventually, all measures recommended by the Jackson Review will be taken up and funded? 9. Has RET prepared a proposal to the Minister on appropriate levels of funding against each of the recommendations of the Jackson Review 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR33	RET / TA	Bushby	Tourism Australia – International Buildings	<p>Tourism Australia’s Annual Report lists a number of international offices. We would like to find out how much the 12 international offices are costing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Australia operates a number of international offices. • For each location could TA please provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How much is Tourism Australia paying for the office? ○ The total length of the lease? ○ The amount of time remaining on the lease? ○ The size of the premises? ○ The length of time the office has been open for. ○ Amount paid for variable outgoings such as internet access/ electricity / gas / water per quarter – if this can’t be provided quarterly what ever the billing cycle is. ○ The number of staff at the office broken down by APS classification or Tourism Australia’s 7 bands. ○ What is each international office’s budget (including wages, accommodation and other allowances, and operating costs) • What is the visitation to each office by members of the public? • Has Tourism Australia considered co-locating its offices with other Australian Government offices abroad (Australian Trade Commission Service, State Trade Missions etc) to deliver cost savings? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR34	RET / TA	Bushby	Tourism Australia – Cash on Hand	<p>1. On page 87 of the Tourism Australia Annual Report cash on hand appears to have almost doubled from \$12 million in 2009 to over \$20 million 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the current holding of cash on hand for tourism Australia? ○ Why the large increase in cash on hand for the period? ○ Why does Tourism Australia need such a large amount of cash on hand? ○ Does this represent an under spending in Marketing? ○ Are you signalling to Government that your budget could be reduced? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR35	RET / TA	Bushby	Business Events Tourism	<p>Business events produce the highest daily yield of any sector of the tourism industry. The business events sector contributes an estimated \$17.6 billion a year to the national economy, generating 116,000 jobs.¹</p> <p>They also promote and showcase Australian expertise and innovation to the world and attract global leaders and investment decision makers who might otherwise not have come to Australia.²</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much did Australia earn from hosting international conferences, business events and major sporting competition in the past year? 2. What proportion of these were supported by taxpayer funds to support bids? 3. What amount of money was spent overall? 4. What's the estimated size of the pool of such events internationally? 5. How is the Federal Government supporting renewed efforts by States like NSW and Victoria who are increasing their investment in this area? 6. Is there collaboration with the States in bidding for events (or are there areas of duplication where there can be better pooling of resources)? 7. In response to a question at Additional Estimates in February this year, the actual budget for Business Events Australia reduced from \$5,300,000 to \$4,060,000. What was the result of this decreased spending in terms of our success in securing major events? 		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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¹ The Business Events Industry Strategy Group, A National Business Events Strategy for Australia 2020, October 2008

² The Business Events Industry Strategy Group, A National Business Events Strategy for Australia 2020, October 2008

			<p>8. In identifying Tourism Australia's stretch targets for 2020, can Tourism Australia:</p> <p>(a) provide a breakdown of all marketing and promotional spend by country and indicate how this fits with the Mapping Destination Priorities work that is being done?</p> <p>(b) indicate how Tourism Australia has linked this to its Key Performance Indicators against which its effectiveness can be measured by the ANAO and the Parliament?</p> <p>(c) Provide a list of those countries identified as those with the largest Tourism growth potential, based on Mapping Destinations Priorities work done to date?</p>		28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR36	RET	Bushby	Measurement of KPIs – Tourism	<p>The Auditor General’s report No.5 2011-12; “Development and Implementation of Key Performance Indicators to Support the Outcomes and Programs Framework” was published on 8 September. In the context of the framework, it highlights the importance of KPIs focus on effectiveness, not efficiency.</p> <p>In light of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia’s slide from 4th to 13th place in the World Economic Forum’s ranking of countries by tourism competitiveness since 2008; • ABS data showing domestic overnight trips have fallen from 72 million to 64 million (7.8 percent); [update with figures since 2007 instead of these decade long stats] • Tourism’s share of capital expenditure has decreased from 3.5 percent to 3.0 percent; and • Australia’s share of global international arrivals has declined from 0.69 percent to 0.57 percent (17.3 percent). <p>Is this worsening situation reflected in staff effectiveness measurement?</p> <p>If so;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What remedial action has been taken? <p>If not,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not? • Are objectives not SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timed)? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
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SR37	RET	Bushby	International Workers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can RET provide an update on your discussions with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on lengthening the time limit for working holiday visas by a year? 2. How will RET measure the performance of the Pacific Guest Worker Scheme, and will this information be made available to inform the Parliament's deliberations around how Australia can meet its Tourism and Hospitality sector skills shortage? 	Written 26 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR38	RET	Birmingham	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	<p>When the clean energy package is fully operational how many staff are expected to be employed in the Australian Renewable Energy Agency? How many are expected to be employed at 1 July 2012?</p> <p>Where will Australian Renewable Energy Agency staff be based? What will be the office requirements for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and how much floor space will be occupied?</p> <p>What will the budget for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency be for each financial year to 2020 (inclusive)?</p>	Written 27 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR39	RET / GA	Waters	Coal Seam Gas Impact on Groundwater	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What, if anything, is Geoscience doing to support good decision making regarding coal seam gas developments' impacts on groundwater? 2. Is Geoscience doing any studies of Australia's groundwater systems, and the <i>cumulative</i> impacts of coal seam gas developments on these systems? If yes, when will these studies be completed? What gaps will remain re our understanding of (a) the groundwater systems, and (b) the likely/ potential impacts of coal seam gas developments on these systems once these studies are complete? 	Written 27 Oct 2011	28/11/2011	9/02/2012

SR40	RET / BREE	Colbeck	Minerals and Energy Forecasting	<u>Minerals and resources boom</u> 1. The record commodity earnings projected for 2011-12 are largely due to increases in earnings from energy and minerals (ABARES media release 21 June 2011), what forecasting has ABARES done regarding the longer term horizon for this boom? 2. What are the likely longer term impacts on infrastructural developments and the impact of infrastructural developments focussing on mining?	Written 31/10/11	28/11/2011	9/02/2012
SR41	RET	Brown	Depletion of Mineral Resources	Is there an optimal depletion rate for mineral resources? Are there signs this is being exceeded at present in Australia and that our longer-term welfare would be enhanced if the finite mineral resources were extracted at a more measured pace?	Written – transferred by Treasury on 8/11/11	28/11/2011	9/02/2012