

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.: 1**

**Program:** Corporate Outcome

**Division/Agency:** (CORP) Corporate Services

**Topic:** Departmental Publications

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 16-17 (22/02/11)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—How many publications would the department do a year in terms of reports?

**Mr Mrdak**—I would have had to check. We do quite a number. The BITRE, for instance, produces a large number of reports.

**Senator NASH**—Could you, if you wouldn't mind, take that on notice. It would just seem, with the amount of publications that the department does, that consideration of having a permanent small group to do all this stuff rather than panels and outsourcing—obviously, as you say, there might not be enough work there to sustain them for—

**Mr Mrdak**—Certainly.

**Answer:**

In the period 1 July 2010 to 28 February 2011 the Department published 19 reports.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.: 2**

**Program:** Corporate Outcome

**Division/Agency:** (CORP) Corporate Services

**Topic:** Hospitality spend for the period 1 July 2010 – 31 January 2011.

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 17-18 (22/02/11)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—...Can I just move on to a question that Senator Colbeck asked on notice. It was regarding the department's hospitality spend since budget estimates 2010 and was, in part: Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

I think that is a very good question that Senator Colbeck has probably asked a number of departments. The answer was a hospitality spend total of \$32,000, but then it went on to say: The Department of Infrastructure and Transport does not record this level of detail in its financial management information system.

Why not? Why can't we have a breakdown of where the hospitality was spent?.....

**Senator NASH**—So what you are saying is you cannot give me something similar to the Department of Agriculture's list, which says, 'Date of event, 21 May 2010; purpose, Office of Horticultural Market Access Lunch; location, Canberra; cost, \$107'. You cannot do that for me?

**Mr Banham**—Not directly from our system, no.

**Senator NASH**—How do you keep track of individually what you spend on things? Or do you just spend the money and chuck it in a bucket?

**Mr Mrdak**—I think what Mr Banham is highlighting is that we have extracted details from our financial system, which does not record that level of detail, Senator. But I am happy to go back and see if I can give you a more detailed breakdown from individual divisions' reporting. What Mr Banham is indicating is that our financial system just gives you the aggregate spend across the cost code without the details. Let me go back and see if we can get you a more detailed breakdown by location and event and come back to you.

**Senator NASH**—That would be good. If it exists somewhere but just has not been collated and needs to be garnered individually—

**Mr Mrdak**—That is right. Mr Banham is giving you the answer in respect to our financial transactions system and what that reports. But let us go back and see what additional level of detail we can provide you.

**Answer:**

Hospitality expenditure for the Department for the period July 2010 to January 2011 totalled \$37,642.48 for departmental officers and non-departmental officers.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost \$</b>
31/08/2010	ICAO - Montreal	113.79
3/11/2010	Catering - WHCO network meeting	115.00
16/09/2010	Infrastructure Australia – meeting with Minister	115.91
7/10/2010	Official Hospitality for Benchmarking visit	123.54
12/07/2010	Planning liaison/issues function	127.04
5/08/2010	Representative Lunch and Gifts	132.12
5/11/2010	Official Hospitality - catering	151.55
17/08/2010	Hospitality - Chinese Aviation Delegation	154.55
16/12/2010	Hospitality - function	156.48
29/12/2010	Hospitality - Infrastructure Australia Board members whilst attending IA Board meeting	162.00
22/09/2010	Function for executive welcome to Dept Of Regional Aust	181.82
11/10/2010	Hospitality - OECD	183.27
17/11/2010	Hospitality - Departmental	184.17
10/07/2010	Room hire fee for Samoa function	190.71
29/12/2010	Part payment of Infrastructure Australia dinner - Board meeting Hobart	195.45
5/11/2010	Dinner with Shire President, Roeburne Shire	227.27
23/08/2010	Departmental function – EA network	247.09
5/08/2010	Hospitality - Washington. Ministers speech - International Aviation	255.07
10/08/2010	IPDN Staff dinner	259.54
22/12/2010	Rewards and Recognition – Machinery of Government changes	268.00
29/08/2010	Infrastructure Australia - 23 August 2010 function	272.73
30/11/2010	A welcome dinner for international guests	272.73
1/09/2010	Infrastructure Australia Dinner – Departmental function	289.09
8/12/2010	Infrastructure Australia function	292.00
16/08/2010	Purchase of gifts for official delegations - Aviation Industry	297.27
22/09/2010	Departmental function - Farewell to LGRD, ONA on transfer to RA	318.18
1/10/2010	Hospitality supplies	327.05
12/10/2010	Deposit for Infrastructure Australia council meeting dinner in Hobart	363.64
16/11/2010	Hospitality supplies	370.94
20/09/2010	Deposit for dinner with Infrastructure Australia Board	389.61
16/11/2010	End of year catering - thank you to Departmental staff	393.22
25/08/2010	Hospitality supplies - Rewards and Recognition	394.74
12/07/2010	Lunch for Australian and Cambodian Delegates	418.98
10/11/2010	Airports Consultative Forum 29/11/10 Dinner Deposit	454.54
5/08/2010	Reimburse DFAT for Ambassadors' reception - Washington	455.58
20/10/2010	Hospitality - TSA review	455.82
21/09/2010	Hospitality Infrastructure Australia – ARA meeting	487.73

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost \$</b>
30/11/2010	Port Vila: Official business lunch for delegations	529.41
1/10/2010	Hospitality – staff function for DORA establishment	543.64
21/10/2010	Hospitality for NZ Rail Delegation	590.45
29/09/2010	Infrastructure Australia - function	593.18
14/12/2010	Reimbursement for dinner expense held on 9 Dec 2010	651.00
31/07/2010	Hospitality - UAE Delegation in Sydney	693.64
29/10/2010	Hospitality - National Transport and Logistics Workforce	873.19
23/08/2010	National Infrastructure Priorities meeting	927.54
21/12/2010	Rewards and Recognition - OTS	946.36
9/12/2010	Rewards and Recognition – Airports and Aviation	960.54
14/08/2010	Capital Cities Workshop 10 August 2010	1,045.46
19/06/2010	2009-10 Infrastructure Australia annual Dinner	1,107.92
31/10/2010	ICAO - Montreal	1,137.04
30/09/2010	Hospitality - Infrastructure Australia Board	1,363.64
26/11/2010	Infrastructure Australia Board function	1,374.54
14/08/2010	Capital Cities Workshop 9 August 2010	1,459.10
31/12/2010	Montreal office expenses - ICAO	1,521.56
21/10/2010	Official aviation and security dinner	1,650.26
10/07/2010	Official aviation security dinner	1,764.07
3/12/2010	Airports Consultative Forum Dinner	1,783.64
1/07/2010	Infrastructure Australia function	1,818.18
2/07/2010	Catering supplies	1,984.90
9/08/2010	Hospitality - Capital Cities Planning Workshop - with jurisdictions	2,525.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 37,642.48</b>

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 3

**Program:** Corporate Outcome

**Division/Agency:** (CORP) Corporate Services

**Topic:** Grants Approval

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 18 (22/02/11)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—... Just very briefly, the answer to question on notice CORP 14, again by Senator Colbeck—if I can just get you to go to that it might be easier—was about a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since budget estimates last year and details of recipients. The third point in the question was:

Did the Minister approve each of these grants? The answer was no. I am interested in knowing which grants the minister did not approve and what the normal process is for grants being granted without ministerial approval.

**Mr Mrdak**—I am just looking at the list, Senator. Some of them are ones for which there has been approval in the past under a program spend but the individual grant payment is then done under a delegation by the department. I think it is referring to that. We have made a number of payments. They range from, clearly, grants which are agreed to by the minister, such as programs such as seatbelts on school buses.

**Senator NASH**—The ones approved by the minister are not the ones I want; it was just that the answer was no.

**Mr Mrdak**—They are ones where we have subscriptions to the Australian Road Research Board and those types of grants which are part of a program payment agreed to by the minister but for which individual payments are then authorised by senior officers in the department.

**Senator NASH**—Would you mind taking it on notice to give me a list of those.

**Mr Mrdak**—Certainly.

**Answer:**

The list of grants is supplied in the Senate Order on Grants prior to each Senate Estimates hearings.