

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

Infrastructure and Transport

Question No.: CORP 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Proposed charges for FOI items

Hansard Page/s: 10 (21/10/10)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—What is the basis of that charge, can you tell me? How is that charge of \$1,800 determined?

Mr Mrdak—I might defer to Mr Banham, our chief operating officer.

Mr Banham—There are largely two components of the rate. One is the actual location of the document and the copying fee. The other one is to actually go through the document and root out the relevant components. It is an estimate of how much it will cost us when we do the full brief.

Senator COLBECK—So \$1,800. I would assume it would not be all that difficult to find it. I have no idea who has made the request either, just for the record. If it is us, I plead innocence on that. Can you give me an indication of how that cost is built? Obviously, you locate the document and copy it, but I would not have thought they were hugely onerous processes. The major project, I would have thought, would be going through the document. Can you give me a sense of how big it is and what size it is?

Mr Banham—The actual schedule of fees is set out under the act. It prices per page for copying. The incoming government brief is a fairly large document. There is also a large volume that talks about the portfolio and the department. The applicant has the right, once they see the estimate of charges, to reduce what they are asking for. So they may want to drop off a couple of the large volumes and then the cost will reduce.

Senator COLBECK—So it is set out and designed under a formula. Do you have to make an estimate of the time that it is going to take you to go through to do the selection process?

Mr Banham—Yes, Senator. The per page fee is fixed. The estimate is of how long it will take us to go through and edit the document and to review it.

Senator COLBECK—And the charge-out rate is also fixed under the act?

Mr Banham—It is, Senator.

Answer:

\$15

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Question No.: CORP 02

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Election Briefings – Red and Blue Book

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Fielding asked:

- 1) Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')?
- 2) Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
- 3) If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
- 4) If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
- 5) Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?
- 6) Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue Book')?
- 7) Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
- 8) If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
- 9) If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
- 10) Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

Answer:

- 1) Yes
- 2– 4) Aspects have already been made available through the FOI process.
- 5) No
- 6) No
- 7) n/a
- 8) n/a
- 9) n/a
- 10) No

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Question No.: CORP 03

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Election briefings - Red and Blue Book

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?
- 2) Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?

Answer:

- 1) Refer to CORP 02
- 2) No, the Department did not complete a final Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book').

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Question No.: CORP 04

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Election promises

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What is the total additional cost to the budget of Labor's election promises (over and above what was already in the budget)?
- 2) Can you please provide a breakdown of each policy by cost and budget year?

Answer:

- 1) Election commitments were costed through the Charter of Budget Honesty process.
- 2) Refer to the Charter of Budget Honesty process.

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Question No.: CORP 05

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Caretaker period

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What approvals were given by the Minister in the 3 day period before the Caretaker period began?
- 2) What approvals were made by the Minister during the Caretaker period, if any?

Answer:

- 1)
 - Local Government Reform Fund–Regulation 9 approval for Women in Local Government projects and Deed of Standing Offer.
 - Infrastructure Employment Projects–Regulation 9 approval for Black Saturday Memorial Stadium WANDONG.
 - Second Notice to restrict operations by MCC3 Aircrafts.
 - Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program-Strategic Projects–Regulation 9 approval for North Penrith Thornton Park car park.
 - Approval to United Nations to draw on Australia’s National Public Private Partnership (PPP) guidelines to prepare the UN PPP program toolkit.
- 2)
 - Departmental Secretary’s leave approval.
 - Alice Springs Airport 2009 draft Master Plan and Environment Strategy.
 - Melbourne Airport-Apac Drive-on-Ramp draft major development plan.
 - Launceston Airport draft Environment Strategy 2010.
 - Brisbane Airport Marine Simulator and Training Centre.

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Question No.: CORP 06

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Questions on Notice-May 2010 Budget Estimates

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) When were answers to questions on notice for May's Budget Estimates first prepared for the previous Minister? When were they first submitted to the Minister's office?
- 2) What was the response from the Minister's office? From who? When?
- 3) What communications were received from the Minister's office about the answers up to the caretaker period? Was there any written communication? What was the nature of this communication?
- 4) What advice did the Department take on the release of the answers during the caretaker period? (*DEWHA released answers during the caretaker period*)
- 5) How many answers have yet to be submitted to the Committee? Which ones? And are there any from any previous hearings still to be submitted?

Answer:

- 1) Draft responses were provided to the Minister's office by 15th July 2010.
- 2) On 21 July 2010, the draft responses were returned to the Department due to the commencement of the Caretaker period.
- 3) None
- 4) None
- 5) None

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Question No.: CORP 07

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Financials

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) Can you provide me with a breakdown for each of the past 4 years:
 - a) Total DIT appropriations
 - b) DIT appropriations as a % of total government appropriations?
- 2) Can you provide me the breakdown requested above but for the each of the 4 years in the forward estimates?
- 3) Can you provide me with the details of all DIT programs lapsing/terminating over each of the 4 years in the forward estimates? (e.g. regional food producers program)

Answer:

- 1) (a) & (b) Please refer to budget papers.
- 2) Please refer to budget papers.
- 3) Details of the programs administered by the Department are available in the Portfolio Budget Statement.

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Question No.: CORP 08

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Ministerial Travel

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What was the total cost of travel by the Minister in 2009-10?
- 2) What was the total cost of travel by his staff in 2009-10?
- 3) Which places has the new Minister visited since his appointment?
- 4) What was the cost of travel for these visits?
- 5) Who accompanied him?
- 6) What was the cost of travel for these staff?

Answer:

- 1) Ministerial travel costs are the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
- 2) Ministerial staff travel costs are the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
- 3) London, Rome.
- 4) Ministerial travel costs are the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
- 5) & 6) Departmental staff who accompanied the Minister on travel since his swearing in on 14 September 2010 and associated costs.

Destination	Date	Accompanying departmental staff	Cost
London/Rome	02 -11 November 2010	Lyn O'Connell	\$15, 553*

*Note - this figure represents airfares only.

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Question No.: CORP 09

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Campaigns/Communications

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) How many DIT staff undertake communications/media advisory roles?
- 2) What was the total cost of communications/media in DIT in 2009-10? And the expected cost for this financial year?
- 3) What is the total budget of the communications branch of DIT for 2010-2011? And what was the budget in 2009-10?
- 4) What campaigns or other form of advertising are scheduled for 2010-2011?
- 5) When will these run?
- 6) What is the cost of each of these?
- 7) What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office in the 2009/10 financial year? Which agency or agencies provided these services.
- 8) What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department and its agencies in the 2009/10 financial year? Which agency or agencies provided these services.
- 9) Has the department instituted any policies or protocols that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs? If yes, please explain what restrictions has been put in place.
- 10) Why were these restrictions put in place? If not, why not?
- 11) Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time are these sites most accessed (i.e. lunch time?).
- 12) Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites?

Answer:

- 1) As at 31 October 2010 the Community Engagement Branch has 25.7 FTE. This branch looks after communications/media, stakeholder engagement and events.
- 2) 2009-10 - \$5,056,045
2010-11 - \$4,030,212
- 3) 2010-11 - \$4,030,212
2009-10 - \$5,361,974
- 4) None
- 5) N/A
- 6) N/A
- 7) \$182,204 Media Monitors Pty Ltd
- 8) \$1,184,451 Media Monitors Pty Ltd and Morris Walker Pty Ltd
- 9) Yes - for some social media sites (and other website categories), the Department applies a time quota that limits the amount of time specific sites can be viewed by a user within a 24 hour period. Access is denied to websites that are considered inappropriate.

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10) To assist in the management of departmental resources.

11) Yes.

The department does not record the duration a user spends viewing a specific website.

The department does not record network utilisation by website category.

12) The department continuously monitors and adjusts its internet access policies.

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Question No.: CORP 10

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Ministerial Submissions

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) Did the Government, Minister or his office return any documents to the Department once the caretaker conventions began?
- 2) Did these documents include Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes?
- 3) How many unread, unsigned or undealt with Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes were sent back?
- 4) What was the date of the earliest such document that was sent back from the Minister's office and the date of the last?
- 5) Did the Minister or his office request prior to the calling of the election that no more submissions, briefs or notes be sent?
- 6) What type of work did your portfolio engage in during the 2010 election campaign?
- 7) Did you receive any requests for information from the Government, your portfolio Ministers or any other Ministers?

Answer:

- 1) Yes
- 2) Yes
- 3) 58
- 4) Earliest-21/7/10 and last 14/09/10
- 5) No
- 6) The Department continued business as usual, in line with the Caretaker conventions.
- 7) Yes

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Question No.: CORP 11

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Staffing

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What is the total expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies? What is the SES and non-SES breakdown?
- 2) What are the current staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers?
- 3) How many SES were employed in your Department and portfolio agencies on 10 May 2010?
- 4) How many SES were employed in your Department and portfolio agencies as of today?
- 5) What is the breakdown by each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?
- 6) What is the gender breakdown by each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?
- 7) What is the breakdown by location for each level (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?
- 8) What is the breakdown by each level of ongoing staff and non ongoing staff (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band)?
- 9) What has been the general staffing trend in your department and portfolio agencies since the 2007 election (for example SES numbers and recruitment has increased by X per cent because of Y).
- 10) What have been the changes in staffing levels since Budget Estimates 2010? Why have these changes occurred? What have been the Budgetary implications? In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department? What functions these staff performed have been sacrificed and why?
- 11) Are there expected changes to current staffing levels over the next 12 months? If yes, provide details including a breakdown of each level staff (each SES band, each Executive Level band and each APS band) detailing the changes. Will this be different to what was reported in the 2010-11 Budget?
- 12) Has there been a target for staff reductions to achieve savings? What is that target and what strategy is being implemented to achieve this? Will staff reductions be used to achieve the Government's election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend?
- 13) Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff? If so, how have staff been identified for such offers? Are there such plans for the future?
- 14) How many permanent staff recruited since Budget Estimates 2010? What level are these staff? Where is their location?
- 15) Since Budget Estimates 2010, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
- 16) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the current efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts since Budget Estimate s2010? If so, where and at what level?

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- 17) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- 18) If your Department/agency has been identified in the 2010 election as delivering efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, savings commitments included reducing program funding, rationalising grants etc how will these impact the department and staffing) .
- 19) What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

- 1) to 9) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- 10) Since the 2010 Budget Estimates staffing levels have reduced by 134.85 FTE. The main reason is the transfer of 184 employees to the new Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government. The Department's budget reduced proportionately. The functions that were previously undertaken by these employees when they were employed in the Department are now undertaken by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.
- 11) No
- 12) No
- 13) No
- 14) A total of 63 on-going employees have been recruited since Budget Estimates 2010.

APS Level	Number
APS3	1
APS4	5
APS5	11
APS 6	15
EL1	20
EL2	9
SES 1	1
SES 2	1
Total	63

60 of the 63 ongoing employees recruited since Budget Estimates 2010 are employed in the ACT. One is employed in South Australia, one in Jakarta and one in Victoria.

- 15) Eighty-two people with an average length of employment of 3.2 months.
- 16) No
- 17) No
- 18) Government and Departmental priorities will be managed within allocated funding.
- 19) None

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Question No.: CORP 12

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Electoral Reports

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website? If not, why not? If so, when? What data will be included?
- 2) Did the Department prepare electorate level reports for the Government Ministers for the 2010 election? What data is included in these reports? How often is this updated? Why is this material not publicly available? Please provide copy of latest reports.
- 3) Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants scheme since November 2007?

Answer:

- 1) No.
- 2) No.
- 3) No.

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Question No.: CORP 13

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Consultancy services

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).
- 2) How can the department justify this expenditure?
- 3) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since Budget Estimates 2010 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.
- 4) Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?
- 5) Has there been any changes in the consultancies are planned for this calendar year since Budget Estimates 2010? If yes, have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
- 6) Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.
- 7) Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.
- 8) Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details.
- 9) Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.
- 10) Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.
- 11) Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.
- 12) Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.
- 13) Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.

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- 14) Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.
- 15) Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

- 1) \$3,654,355
Details of the Department's consultancies are available at AusTender website at <https://www.tenders.gov.au/>
- 2) The need for independent research or assessment; or
The need for specialised or professional skills; or
Skills currently unavailable within agency.
- 3) Details of the Department's consultancies are available at AusTender website at <https://www.tenders.gov.au/>
The value of these consultancies is \$12,765,123.
The amount paid on these consultancies is \$5,852,499.
Figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found in the Department's Annual Report.
- 4) Yes
- 5) No
- 6) Details of the Department's consultancies are available at AusTender website at <https://www.tenders.gov.au/>
- 7) No
- 8) No
- 9) No
- 10) Yes.
- Commonwealth Regional Information Service Campaign 2006
 - Advertising for the Green Vehicle Guide 2006 and 2008
- 11) No
- 12) No
- 13) No
- 14) No
- 15) Yes. Mr Adam Lewis served as a member of the National Transport Commission review steering committee from 1 December 2008.

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Question No.: CORP 14

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
- 2) Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?
- 3) Did the Minister approve each of these grants?

Answer:

- 1) Refer to Senate Order on Grants response tabled on 11 October 2010.
- 2) Yes.
- 3) No.

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Question No.: CORP 15

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Reports

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- 2) How much did each report cost?
- 3) How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- 4) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

- 1) Four.

Report title	Infrastructure Planning and Delivery: Best Practice Case Studies
Date commissioned	28 May 2010, at the direction of the COAG Infrastructure Working Group
Date report handed to Government	18 November 2010 COAG IWG meeting
Date of public release	11 February 2011
Terms of reference	See Attachment A
Committee members	The Department initiated and oversighted the report's preparation. The Department engaged an external consultant to undertake analysis and prepare case studies of six major infrastructure projects which demonstrate best practice in procurement and delivery in various forms.

Report title	High Speed Rail Study
Date commissioned	31 October 2010
Date report handed to Government	Not applicable, ongoing
Date of public release	Not applicable, ongoing
Terms of reference	See Attachment A
Committee members	Not applicable

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Report title	Review and Final Report – Indonesia Transport Safety Assistance Package
Date commissioned	24 May 2010
Date report handed to Government	19 July 2010
Date of public release	19 July 2010
Terms of reference	See Attachment A
Committee members	Andrew Wilson, Stephen Borthwick, Holly Ainslie

Report title	State of Australian Cities Report – 2011 Update
Date commissioned	22 October 2010
Date report handed to Government	Not applicable, ongoing
Date of public release	Not applicable, ongoing
Terms of reference	Not applicable
Committee members	Not applicable

2)

Report Title	Report Cost
Infrastructure Planning and Delivery: Best Practice Case Studies	\$70,000.00
High Speed Rail Study	\$20.0m
Review and Final Report – Indonesia Transport Safety Assistance Package (ITSAP)	\$77,490.00
State of Australian Cities Report – 2011 Update	\$0.2m

3)

Report Title	Number and Level of Departmental Staff Involved
Infrastructure Planning and Delivery: Best Practice Case Studies	1xEL2, 1xEL1.
High Speed Rail Study	1xSES, 1xEL2, 3xEL1, 1xAPS 5-6, 1xAPS 1-4.
Review and Final Report – Indonesia Transport Safety Assistance Package (ITSAP)	1xEL2, 2xPS 5-6.
State of Australian Cities Report – 2011 Update	1xSES, 1xEL2, 1xAPS 5-6.

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4)

Report Title	Current Status	Government's Response Date
Infrastructure Planning and Delivery: Best Practice Case Studies	The report was made available to industry and the public via the Department's website on 11 February 2011.	Not applicable. The report provides a feedback loop from completed best practice projects into new and upcoming projects, so that a holistic 'lessons learned' culture can be encouraged with major infrastructure delivery at a national level.
High Speed Rail Study	Ongoing	Unknown
Review and Final Report – Indonesia Transport Safety Assistance Package (ITSAP)	Complete	Not applicable
State of Australian Cities Report – 2011 Update	Annual	Not applicable

CORP 15 (Terms of Reference) – Attachment A

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Question No.: CORP 16

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Hospitality

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What is the Department's hospitality spend since Budget Estimates 2010? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- 2) For each Minister/Parl Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answer:

- 1) The Department's hospitality spend for the 2010-11 financial year to 31 October 2010 totalled \$32,075 for departmental officers and non-departmental officers. The Department of Infrastructure and Transport does not record this level of detail in its Financial Management Information System.
- 2) There was no expenditure on hospitality by the Minister's and Parliamentary Secretaries' offices for the 2010-11 financial year to 31 October 2010.

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Question No.: CORP 17

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Board Appointments

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
- 2) What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since Budget Estimates 2010?
- 3) Are you implementing the Government target of 40 per cent women appointed to Boards?

Answer:

- 1) As at 5 November 2010

Board	Members	Gender Ratio
Airservices Australia	9	M = 7 (77%) F = 2 (23%)
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	8	M = 7 (100%) 1 vacant
Australian Rail Track Corporation	7	M = 4 (80%) F = 1 (20%) 2 vacant
Australian Transport Safety Bureau	3	M = 2 (67%) F = 1 (33%)
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	5	M = 4 (75%) F = 1 (25%)
International Air Services Commission	3	M = 1 (50%) F = 1 (50%) 1 vacant
Infrastructure Australia	12	M = 10 (83%) F = 2 (17%)
National Road Safety Council	7 5 ambassadors	M = 5 (71%) F = 2 (29%) M = 4 (80%) F = 1 (20%)
National Transport Commission	6	M = 5 (83%) F = 1 (17%)
Sydney Airport Community Forum	1	M = 1 (100%)
Across the Portfolio	66	M = 50 (81%) F = 12 (19%) 4 Vacant

- 2) As at 5 November 2010, M = 75%, F = 25%.
- 3) Yes

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Question No.: CORP 18

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: FOI requests

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
- 2) How many FOI requests has the Department received?
- 3) How many have been granted or denied?
- 4) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?
- 5) Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?
- 6) Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?

Answer:

- 1) No
- 2) The Department received 11 requests in the period from 1 July 2010 to 31 October 2010.
- 3) 10 applications were granted in full or part and 2 applications were denied. This included FOI requests received before 1 July 2010.
- 4) None
- 5) Aspects have already been made available through the FOI process.
- 6) No

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question No.: CORP 19

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Community Cabinet

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates 2010?
- 2) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?
- 3) What was the total cost of this travel?
- 4) What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office?

Answer:

- 1) Ministerial travel expenses are the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.
- 2) One Departmental staff member travelled with the Minister.
- 3) \$3,075
- 4) The total cost to the Department was \$3,075. Ministerial travel expenses are the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question No.: CORP 20

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) How much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings?
- 2) How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings be redrafted or relodged? Please provide example of why this would happen. (i.e. last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled).

Answer:

- 1) The Department does not record the specific time spent by departmental officers on any given paper/submission.
- 2) There is no standard model for the development of Cabinet papers/submissions. All papers/submissions will vary in their development cycle based on a range of factors.

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question No.: CORP 21

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Reviews

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since Budget Estimates 2010?
- 2) Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since Budget Estimates 2010 including:
 - a. when those reviews were provided to Government,
 - b. estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and
 - c. if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.
- 3) How many reviews are ongoing?
- 4) How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?
- 5) What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?
- 6) Will any of these reviews cease due to the 2010 Election?

Answer:

- 1) Three
- 2) The Adelaide Rail Freight Movements Study was provided to Government on 3 June 2010. It was released on 24 June 2010. The study cost \$1.367m.
- 3) Two
- 4) One
- 5) Three planned reviews:
 - Review of Part X of the Trade Practices Act 1974;
 - Review of the Integration of the Australian Maritime College with the University of Tasmania; and
 - Productivity Commission Review of Airport Economic Regulation.
- 6) No

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question No.: CORP 22

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) Has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
- 2) For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- 3) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

- 1) For the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, and based on the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research's Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business, the Department paid 99.3% of invoices within 30 days, 0.3% between 31-45 days, 0.1% between 45-60 days and 0.3% over 60 days.
- 2) No interest has been paid on overdue accounts.
- 3) Not applicable.

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question No.: CORP 23

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Government stationery requirements

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What are the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. special type of paper, envelopes)?
- 2) What are the cost of these items?
- 3) Is the Department/portfolio agencies paying for these?

Answer:

- 1) For Minister Albanese and Parliamentary Secretary King:
 - letterheads (parchment paper)
 - envelopes
 - compliment slips (Minister only)
 - business cards
- 2) For 2010/11as at 9/11/10 the cost is \$7,667.71
- 3) Yes

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question No.: CORP 24

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Confidential document removal

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1) What was the total cost of shredding/removal of confidential (or similar) documents in the Department for 2009/10 and so far for 2010/11?
- 2) What was the total cost of shredding/removal of confidential (or similar) documents in the Minister/Parl Sec's offices for 2009/10 and so far for 2010/11?

Answer:

- 1) 2009/10 - \$57,816
2010/11 - \$19,272
- 2) 2009/10 - \$550
2010/11 - \$303