

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2011
Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 82

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (MCU) Major Cities Unit

Topic: MCU Travel Costs 2010-11

Proof Hansard Page/s: 75 (18/10/11)

Senator EDWARDS asked:

Senator EDWARDS: Are you able to tell me the travel costs for the department for 2010-11?

Mr Mrdak: I think we would need to take that on notice.

Answer:

MCU Travel Costs 2010-11: \$86,589

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Question no.: 83

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (MCU) Major Cities Unit

Topic: MCU Hospitality Costs 2010-11

Proof Hansard Page/s: 75 (18/10/11)

Senator EDWARDS asked:

Senator EDWARDS: Also on the same theme, can you detail the hospitality costs expended by the MCU in that same period. What priority activities is the MCU currently completing?

Ms Ekelund: During the previous quarter we worked on an implementation plan for the national urban policy, which was launched in May. We have been progressing work on a national urban design protocol, which was discussed at previous hearings. We have undertaken workshops to progress a policy agenda on active travel—that is, walking and cycling. We have completed the 2011 *State of Australian cities* report, which was referred to earlier today, which the minister will soon launch.

Answer:

MCU Hospitality Costs 2010-11: \$2,731

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Question no.: 84

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (MCU) Major Cities Unit

Topic: Active Transport Strategy

Proof Hansard Page/s: 80 (18/10/11)

Senator LUDLAM asked:

Senator LUDLAM: Will that be made public eventually?

Ms Ekelund: That will be up to the minister.

Senator LUDLAM: Minister, apologies for bothering you.

Senator CARR: That is very polite. It has been a long day.

Senator LUDLAM: Minister, it has been referred back to the government as to whether the active transport strategy that the MCU is working on will eventually be a public document.

Senator CARR: I will have to take that up with the minister directly.

Answer:

The Government has not considered the release of this work.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question no.: 85

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (MCU) Major Cities Unit

Topic: Sponsorship of State of Commonwealth Cities Symposium

Proof Hansard Page/s: 80 (18/10/11)

Senator NASH asked:

Senator NASH: What does the contract require?

Mr Mrdak: Let us come back to you with the details. We do not think we have a copy of the contract.

Ms Ekelund: No, I do not.

Answer:

The Deed of Sponsorship with the Planning Institute of Australia ('PIA') contains the following requirements:

- 1) The Sponsorship Fee must only be used for the purpose of the Activity
- 2) All of the costs relating to the Activity are to be paid by the PIA
- 3) PIA must provide the Department with a letter within 28 days after the completion of the Activity stating that all of the Sponsorship Fee has been spent in accordance with the requirements of this deed
- 4) If an amount of Sponsorship Fee remains unspent after the completion of the Activity or the earlier termination or expiration of this deed the money must be returned to the Department as soon as practicable
- 5) The PIA engage a professional facilitator to help conduct the Symposium
- 6) The PIA provides the Department with a range of Sponsorship Benefits including:
Acknowledgement of the Department sponsorship.

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Question no.: 86

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (MCU) Major Cities Unit

Topic: Joint Program Involvement between Major Cities Unit and other Departments

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Edwards asked:

1. Outline all of the programs that the Major Cities Unit is jointly involved with other Departments.

In responding to question 1 provide:

- a. The name of the program
- b. MCU's role in that program
- c. The total budgeted amount for the program
- d. The portion of the budgeted amount that the MCU is responsible for?

Answer:

1. The Major Cities Unit does not have direct responsibility for programs operated by any other Department, however it provides advice on an ongoing basis where programs are being developed which affect Australians cities.
 - a. N/A
 - b. N/A
 - c. N/A
 - d. N/A