

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 01

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Re-Phasing of Funds for Darling Matilda Way and Northern Rivers
North Coast

Hansard Page: 78 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—How much of the \$16.383 million in 2006-07 is allocated to the Darling Matilda region?

Ms Gosling—I do not have the breakdown per region but \$9.3 million of the \$20.683 million would have related to the Darling Matilda Way and Northern Rivers North Coast regions. We have allocated that across 2006-07 and 2007-08—\$5 million in 2006-07 and \$4.3 million in 2007-08 for the two new regions.

Senator O'BRIEN—So all the 2007-08 funding is for the two new regions. I would appreciate you giving me a regional breakdown of those re-phasing on notice.

Ms Gosling—We will have a go at it, but that bucket of money was one allocation of up to \$33 million. Obviously, there is a notional allocation across the two regions, but if one region comes forward with more recommendations than the other in 2006-07 then the Government may apply that money to that region, so there is a level of flexibility there. It would be very hard to say that there was a certain amount in one year for one region.

Senator O'BRIEN—So there is a notional amount but there is a practicality being applied to it?

Ms Gosling—Yes.

Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps you could set it out in some way that explains that; that would be appreciated.

Answer:

Of the \$16.383m rephased from 2005-06 to 2006-07, \$5m is for the new Darling Matilda Way (DMW) and Northern Rivers North Coast (NRNC) regions. The \$4.3m rephased to 2007-08 is all for the DMW and NRNC.

For the DMW and NRNC, this provides \$16.9m in 2006-07 and \$13.2m in 2007-08.

There is no allocation of funds between the two new regions within each financial year.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 02

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Area Consultative Committee Boundaries

Hansard Page: 80 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Ms McNally—The review was undertaken by the Department based on submissions that were provided by ACCs. We have provided some initial findings to the Minister. He has sought further comment from ACCs. He has also written out to local MPs and to senators to seek their views on the boundary issues.

Senator O'BRIEN—When did he write out to Members and Senators?

Ms Gosling—I will have to take on notice the date. We do not have that information.

Answer:

The Minister of Transport and Regional Services wrote to Government Members and Senators on 27 April 2006.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 03

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Single Assessment Process

Hansard Pages: 82-83 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—In February, we discussed the average time for Regional Partnerships applications to be assessed by the Department. At the time it was taking 19.9 weeks for the Department and 3.3 weeks for the Ministerial approvals. Your Annual Report said you hoped that 75 per cent of applications would be assessed in 12 weeks. Has that been achieved?

Ms McNally—We have significantly reduced our time frames. We do have a backlog from prior to 13 March. We are working through that very quickly and we hope to be on track to meet those time frames by the end of this financial year.

Senator O'BRIEN—What is the average now?

Ms McNally—I would have to take that on notice. I do not think I have that.

Dr Dolman—I think we can take that on notice. But I can say that no projects that have gone through the new process have taken longer than 12 weeks.

Senator O'BRIEN—How many projects have gone through the new process entirely, from start to finish?

Dr Dolman—I can take that on notice.

Answer:

The average time in weeks for decisions through the new process is 9 weeks.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 04

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Single Assessment Process

Hansard Page: 83 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—How many projects have gone through the new process entirely, from start to finish?

Dr Dolman—I can take that on notice.

Answer:

As at the 31 May 2006, the number of decisions made on projects submitted through the new process since 13 March 2006 is 4.

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Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 05

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships Program*

Hansard Page: 85 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—That would be great. The *Investing in Stronger Regions* statement, which outlined the budget election promises, said that *Regional Partnerships* would create 3½ thousand new jobs over four years. Can someone tell me how many jobs have been created over the life of the program to date?

Ms McNally—We would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The *Investing in Stronger Regions* statement is not an Australian Government document and it would be inappropriate for the Department to speculate on how these calculations were arrived at.

The *Regional Partnerships* program provides assistance for a diverse range of projects – not all of which have specific employment outcomes. For example, projects such as regional planning and tourism strategies, community infrastructure and services projects are not directly focused on creating employment.

Job outcomes will be considered as part of an external evaluation to be conducted in 2007.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 06

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships Program*

Hansard Page: 85 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—The *Investing in Stronger Regions* statement, which outlined the budget election promises, said that *Regional Partnerships* would create 3½ thousand new jobs over four years. Could you also find out how many jobs have been created so far in 2005-06?

Ms McNally—We will take that on notice.

Answer:

The *Regional Partnerships* program provides assistance for a diverse range of projects – not all of which have specific employment outcomes. For example, projects such as regional planning and tourism strategies, community infrastructure and services projects are not directly focused on creating employment.

Job outcomes will be considered as part of an external evaluation to be conducted in 2007.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 07

Division/Agency: Regional Services Division

Topic: Single Assessment Process

Hansard Page: 85 (22/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps also on notice, could we get a breakdown of the *Regional Partnerships* grants made in the current financial year, by Electorate?

Ms McNally—We will take that on notice.

Answer:

The following table lists approved *Regional Partnerships* grants by Electorate for the 2005-06 financial year, as at 26 June 2006.

Federal Electorate	Number of Applications Received in 2005-06	Number of Approved Projects in 2005-06	Total Amount Approved 2005-06 \$(GST-Exclusive)
Adelaide	2	0	\$0
Aston	0	0	\$0
Ballarat	13	5	\$784,500
Banks	0	0	\$0
Barker	19	8	\$1,185,311
Bass	5	4	\$475,000
Batman	1	1	\$150,000
Bendigo	6	2	\$225,000
Berowra	1	0	\$0
Blair	8	3	\$1,293,000
Bonner	1	0	\$0
Boothby	0	0	\$0
Bowman	5	0	\$0
Braddon	4	3	\$809,705
Bradfield	1	0	\$0
Brand	7	3	\$1,535,000
Brisbane	2	0	\$0
Bruce	3	0	\$0
Calare	8	4	\$411,777
Calwell	0	0	\$0
Canberra	3	1	\$11,000
Canning	2	2	\$46,817
Capricornia	9	5	\$2,461,307
Casey	6	3	\$844,740
Charlton	0	0	\$0
Chifley	1	1	\$90,000
Chisholm	1	1	\$145,000
Cook	1	0	\$0

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Federal Electorate	Number of Applications Received in 2005-06	Number of Approved Projects in 2005-06	Total Amount Approved 2005-06 \$(GST-Exclusive)
Corangamite	4	1	\$30,000
Corio	1	0	\$0
Cowan	2	1	\$125,000
Cowper	9	4	\$173,931
Cunningham	5	1	\$100,000
Curtin	1	1	\$15,000
data unavailable	6	0	\$0
Dawson	12	2	\$221,330
Deakin	1	1	\$8,000
Denison	1	1	\$66,000
Dobell	0	0	\$0
Dunkley	2	1	\$400,000
Eden-Monaro	23	11	\$938,380
Fadden	1	1	\$62,000
Fairfax	3	0	\$0
Farrer	10	3	\$951,536
Fisher	3	1	\$24,120
Flinders	2	2	\$258,500
Forde	3	2	\$572,727
Forrest	17	8	\$1,234,330
Fowler	2	1	\$5,000
Franklin	3	0	\$0
Fraser	3	0	\$0
Fremantle	2	2	\$55,400
Gellibrand	3	3	\$439,264
Gilmore	12	9	\$4,165,050
Gippsland	7	4	\$1,450,350
Goldstein	0	0	\$0
Gorton	2	1	\$200,000
Grayndler	1	0	\$0
Grey	15	3	\$313,000
Griffith	1	0	\$0
Groom	6	1	\$500,000
Gwydir	30	14	\$2,040,159
Hasluck	1	1	\$250,000
Herbert	2	1	\$351,874
Hinkler	12	5	\$3,214,626
Holt	0	0	\$0
Hughes	2	0	\$0
Hume	10	5	\$330,379
Hunter	5	3	\$530,445
Indi	12	9	\$2,071,036
Isaacs	0	0	\$0
Jagajaga	1	1	\$40,000
Kalgoorlie	25	8	\$1,619,742
Kennedy	11	6	\$487,915
Kingsford Smith	1	0	\$0
Kingston	2	0	\$0

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Kooyong	0	0	\$0
La Trobe	3	0	\$0
Lalor	1	0	\$0
Leichhardt	13	2	\$568,665
Lilley	1	0	\$0
Lindsay	2	0	\$0
Lingiari	11	5	\$1,090,756
Longman	3	2	\$870,000
Lowe	1	0	\$0
Lyne	7	2	\$147,500
Lyons	9	5	\$475,403
Macarthur	2	1	\$352,806
Mackellar	0	0	\$0
Macquarie	7	4	\$601,630
Makin	0	0	\$0
Mallee	16	9	\$729,240
Maranoa	19	9	\$3,343,079
Maribyrnong	1	1	\$400,000
Mayo	10	2	\$450,000
Mcewen	8	6	\$758,778
Mcmillan	4	1	\$25,000
Mcperson	2	1	\$44,000
Melbourne	3	1	\$488,840
Melbourne Ports	2	0	\$0
Menzies	1	1	\$20,000
Mitchell	1	0	\$0
Moncrieff	1	1	\$90,000
Moreton	1	1	\$25,000
Multiple	0	0	\$0
Murray	13	7	\$1,083,398
New England	20	6	\$626,441
Newcastle	4	0	\$0
North Sydney	1	0	\$0
O'Connor	28	17	\$3,315,244
Oxley	0	0	\$0
Page	10	7	\$705,238
Parkes	24	4	\$432,420
Parramatta	1	0	\$0
Paterson	3	0	\$0
Pearce	3	1	\$127,096
Perth	1	0	\$0
Petrie	6	3	\$188,600
Port Adelaide	3	0	\$0
Prospect	1	1	\$600,000
Rankin	0	0	\$0
Reid	3	1	\$200,000
Richmond	7	6	\$805,341
Riverina	7	2	\$97,185

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Robertson	7	4	\$525,421
Scullin	2	1	\$242,548
Shortland	2	1	\$114,346
Solomon	5	1	\$335,000
Swan	0	0	\$0
Sydney	3	0	\$0
Tangney	0	0	\$0
Throsby	4	3	\$515,500
Wakefield	4	0	\$0
Wannon	12	6	\$559,402
Warringah	1	0	\$0
Watson	0	0	\$0
Wentworth	0	0	\$0
Werriwa	0	0	\$0
Wide Bay	5	1	\$135,600
Wills	0	0	\$0
TOTAL	695	290	\$54,802,728

Source: *TRAX SAP Report* – Electorate Analysis (qslrProjectsbyelectorate) as at 26 June 2006

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 08

Division/Agency Regional Services

Topic: Coonawarra Gold Facilities Project - ACC Assessment

Hansard Page: 90 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you. We managed to establish since February that no separate due diligence checks were carried out by the Department into the viability of the Coonawarra Gold Facilities project which was provided with \$433,000 of Regional Partnerships funding in February last year. What role, if any, did the relevant ACC play in assessing the project for risk?

Dr Dolman—I do not have any specific information in front of me on that, so I can take it on notice. My expectation would be that it would be the normal role that ACCs play in terms of commenting on projects.

Answer:

The ACC did not play any role in the assessment of the risk for this project. Consistent with normal practice, the ACC provided comments on the priority of the project and the project's consistency with their Strategic Regional Plan.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 09

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Hopetoun Collocation Facilities

Hansard Page: 91 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—In February, we heard that the project to establish collocation facilities in Hopetoun, Western Australia, had only received \$88,000 of the \$220,000 promised by the then Parliamentary Secretary, De-Anne Kelly. What does this project hope to achieve?

Dr Dolman—I will have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

The *Hopetoun Collocation of Facilities* project aims to establish a resource centre and office accommodation for the Hopetoun telecentre, library and tourist information service, as well as providing meeting and video conference rooms and office space for casual rental by visiting professionals.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 10

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Hopetoun Collocation Facilities

Hansard Page: 91 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Has the project received a second payment of \$132,000 as provided for in the timetable of payments?

Dr Dolman—I would have to take that on notice as well.

Answer:

The second and final payments for this project total \$132,000 (GST-inclusive). A funding agreement variation, signed on 3 May 2006, has re-scheduled the second payment of \$88,000 (GST-inclusive) to 31 August 2006. The final payment of \$44,000 (GST-inclusive) is now scheduled for 18 January 2007.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question No: REGS 11

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Tambrey Centre

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

When was \$130,929 allocated to Lampton Pty Ltd for the Tambrey Centre Redevelopment?

Answer:

Funding was approved on 4 August 2004.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 12

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Tambrey Centre

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

What is the purpose of the Centre?

Answer:

The Tambrey Centre provides facilities for families and sporting groups. These facilities include the largest function centre in Karratha, a bar, bistro, restaurant, meeting rooms, tennis and squash courts, indoor cricket and a swimming pool.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 13

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Tambrey Centre

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

How many jobs, both full-time and part-time, have been created by the Centre redevelopment?

Answer:

Employment has increased from 3 staff prior to the current owner assuming control to 50 at the conclusion of the project. In November 2003, the Centre employed 12 people in total. Current details of full-time and part-time employment are as follows:

Full-time:	12
Permanent part-time:	3
Casual:	24

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 14

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Tambrey Centre

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

What sort of profits is Lampton Pty Ltd making from the venture?

Answer:

The Department did not require the proponent to report this information.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 15

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Rural Transaction Centres

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

I understand funding for Rural Transaction Centres ceased on 30 June 2005. Are the final 24 centres on schedule to be open by the end of the financial year?

Answer:

As at 12 June 2006, 14 Rural Transaction Centres (RTCs) are not yet operational. Of these, four are expected to be operational before the end of the financial year. Of the remaining ten, nine are situated in the Torres Strait or Far North Queensland regions. These projects have been affected by a range of factors including extreme climatic conditions and a general shortage of builders in the region. The remaining RTC is scheduled to open early next financial year.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 16

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Women's Council

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

In February, this Committee heard that the Minister was considering the future of the Regional Women's Advisory Council.

Answer:

The third Regional Women's Advisory Council was announced by the Minister on 7 June 2006.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 17

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Women's Council

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

What has been the outcome of his considerations?

Answer:

The third Regional Women's Advisory Council was announced by the Minister on 7 June 2006.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 18

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Inquiry into Regional Women's Decision-Making

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

What has the separate inquiry into regional women's decision-making found?

Answer:

The inquiry panel has not completed its report to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 19

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Inquiry into Regional Women's Decision-Making

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Has it provided a Report? If so, can we be provided with a copy?

Answer:

No. The inquiry panel is yet to finalise its report.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 20

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research and Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Am I correct in understanding over \$1.74 million has been paid to the company Universal McCann to advertise the Australian Government Regional Information Service in 2004-05?

What value did taxpayers get from this expenditure?

Answer:

Yes.

Universal McCann arranged Phase 2 of the advertising campaign for the Commonwealth Regional Information Service (now the Australian Government Regional Information Service). This included advertising in regional newspapers, regional television, rural newspapers and magazines, non-English speaking background radio, and indigenous press and radio. People living in regional and rural Australia were provided with advice on how to access information about the comprehensive range of Australian Government programs and services available to them.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 21

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research and Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

I understand that over 120 consultancies were let by the Department in 2004-05 valued at \$10,000 or more. Which of those did the Regional Services Division commission? What publicly-available reports have been produced?

Answer:

Eight consultancies were commissioned by or for the Regional Services Division or for work now managed by the Division in 2004-05. They were:

- 1) Australian Bureau of Statistics: To provide advice on sustainable regions: regional profiles Regional profiles were commissioned for the Darling Matilda Way and Northern Rivers and North Coast NSW Sustainable Regions. Both regional profiles are publicly-available on the Department of Transport and Regional Services website at <http://www.sustainableregions.gov.au/index.aspx>.
- 2) Corrs Chambers Westgarth: For legal advice on procurement processes for supplier contracts relating to the 'Growing Regions' International Regional Policy And Research Conference. Commissioned legal advice. Not publicly-available.
- 3) Cox & Inall Communications: To develop a stakeholder engagement strategy for the Commonwealth regional information directory and related publication support and promotional tasks.
- 4) Cox and Inall Communications: To prepare a communications strategy for development of the Commonwealth Regional Information Service.
- 5) Quantum Market Research: Conduct further development research for the Commonwealth Regional Information Service.
- 6) Kate Sullivan and Associates Pty Ltd: To develop a strategic plan for East Kimberley, Western Australia, Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Indigenous Trial. The plan was drawn on to develop a Joint Action Plan with the Western Australian Government Department of Indigenous Affairs. The Joint Action Plan is publicly-available on request from the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

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- 7) University of New England: For literature-testing resulting in a report titled *Regional Boards: Understanding the Impact of Gender Diversity on Board Performance*. The report is publicly-available on the Department of Transport and Regional Services website
<http://www.dotars.gov.au/regional/development/women/index.aspx>

- 8) Victoria University of Technology: Research resulting in a report titled *Cultural Diversity and Economic Development*. The report is publicly-available on the Department of Transport and Regional Services website at
<http://www.dotars.gov.au/publications/regional>

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Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 22

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research and Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

What did the ABS research on sustainable regions regional profiles conclude? How was the research used? May I have a copy?

Answer:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics was commissioned to develop regional statistical profiles for the Darling Murrumbidgee and Northern Rivers and North Coast NSW Sustainable Regions. The regional profiles assist a range of stakeholders including the local sustainable regions advisory committees and local communities to better understand their region. Both regional profiles are publicly-available on the Department of Transport and Regional Services website at <http://www.sustainableregions.gov.au/index.aspx>

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Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 23

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research & Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Am I correct to understand Corrs Chambers Westgarth has received \$15,657 to prepare an international regional policy and research conference?

Answer:

No. In May and June 2005, the Department sought legal advice from Corrs Chambers & Westgarth on procurement processes for supplier contracts related to the proposed International Regional Development and Research Conference (now known as Growing Regions) in line with Departmental procurement practices. The value of the accounts for these services is \$5,028.65 in May and \$4,028.64 in June 2005. During this time, the Department also sought procurement probity advice from Clayton Utz. The charge was \$6,600. The total for the three accounts comes to \$15,657.29.

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Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 24

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research & Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

What are the details of the [International Regional Policy And Research] Conference including date, location and attendees?

Answer:

The Growing Regions Conference will be held from 25 to 27 July 2006, at the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane.

Attendees are expected to include: regional policy practitioners and academics in the regional policy and research fields from both abroad and within Australia; senior members of government organisations; consultants and representatives of private and non-government sector bodies.

Up-to-date program details can be found at www.dotars.gov.au

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Question No: REGS 25

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research & Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

What outcomes can be attributed to this [the Growing Regions] Conference?

Answer:

Outcomes of the conference are expected to be:

- Highlighting cutting-edge international regional development policy and research, including that of Australia;
- Progressing DOTARS' policy advice on fresh and sustainable regional solutions; and
- Facilitating Australia's greater participation in international regional development discourses, and initiate ongoing networks.

The conference will also provide a significant opportunity to stimulate local, regional and national policy approaches for the development of regions.

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Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 26

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research and Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Am I correct to understand the University of New England received \$26,400 to undertake a project *Regional Boards: Understanding the Impact of Gender Diversity on Board Performance*?

Answer:

Yes.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 27

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research and Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Regional Boards: Understanding the Impact of Gender Diversity on Board Performance. What did this Report find?

Answer:

The 50-page Report found that:

- Despite almost 35 years of rapid social change for women, improved higher education attainments, increased numbers of women in management, relatively few are attaining executive management or board positions in Australia.
- While there have been some minor gains in women's representation in decision-making roles in the private sector, it is in the public sector where women's representation has increased most noticeably.
- Women's representation in regional and rural decision-making roles has been limited and largely invisible, despite the integral role they play in their communities. The changing nature of regional governance has seemingly opened up opportunities for women to be present in the new boards and committees formed to draw community members into economic and social decision-making.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 28

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research and Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Regional Boards: Understanding the Impact of Gender Diversity on Board Performance. How was this research used by the Department?

Answer:

The findings were used as evidence for the Regional Women's Representation Inquiry, chaired by the Hon Senator Judith Troeth.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 29

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Market Research and Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Regional Boards: Understanding the Impact of Gender Diversity on Board Performance. Can a copy of the Report be provided? If not, why not?

Answer:

The report is publicly-available and may be found at the Department of Transport and Regional Services website at

<http://www.dotars.gov.au/regional/development/women/index.aspx>

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 30

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Cape York Mail Run

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

With reference to the answer **REGS 23** from Supplementary Estimates last year, how many operators who have Mail Run contracts do not have an AOC with RPT endorsement for each port stipulated in the contract? Can the Department provide details of the ports not covered by RPT endorsement in each contract?

Answer:

A list of communities supported by the RASS program is **attached** to this response. Current information about which aerodromes are accredited for RPT services on air operators' AOCs is available at CASA's website: www.casa.gov.au

[REGS 30 attachment]

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 31

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Cape York Mail Run

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

With reference to the answer **REGS 24** from Supplementary Estimates last year, can the Department please detail the periods in which the Cape York Mail Run was not required to be an RPT operation, and the reasons why. Can the Department state when it became a requirement that the Mail Run be operated as RPT, and why?

Answer:

An examination of departmental files indicates that prior to 2001, RASS contracts did not include a specific provision requiring air operators to work towards gaining RPT accreditation for ports serviced under RASS contracts.

New contracts executed in or around March 2001 required air operators subsidised under the RASS program to work towards upgrading services to RPT accreditation. This approach reflected the Government policy in relation to air services standards in the context of developments in the regulatory framework following the 2000-01 Budget.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 32

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Cape York Mail Run

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

How many and what percentage of Mail Run contractors hold RPT endorsements on their AOCs for the ports stipulated in their contracts?

Answer:

See **REGS 30**

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 33

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships*

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Stephens asked:

Could the Department supply a list of applications which were unsuccessful in their application for *Regional Partnerships* funding in 2005-06?

Answer:

Attached is a list of all unsuccessful applicants for *Regional Partnerships* funding in 2005-06 as at 31 May 2006.

[REGS 33 attachment]

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 34

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships*

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Stephens asked:

Could we have an explanation as to why they were unsuccessful?

Answer:

Applications which were unsuccessful were either not eligible to apply or did not demonstrate sufficient merit against the *Regional Partnerships* assessment criteria.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 35

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships*

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Stephens asked:

Have the unsuccessful applications been asked to re-submit for *Regional Partnerships* funding?

Answer:

All unsuccessful applicants can re-apply for *Regional Partnerships* funding. They can also seek a review of the decision made on their application.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 36

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships*

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Stephens asked:

Which electorate does each application come from?

Answer:

Attached is a list by **electorate** of all applicants that were unsuccessful in their request for *Regional Partnerships* funding in 2005-06. This information is as at 31 May 2006.

[REGS 36 attachment]

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 37

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships*

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Stephens asked:

How many applications did the Department receive for *Regional Partnerships* funding to date in 2005-06?

Answer:

As at 31 May 2006, 487 applications have been received for *Regional Partnerships* funding in 2005-06.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 38

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships*

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Stephens asked:

How many applications were successful in securing *Regional Partnerships* funding to date in 2005-06?

Answer:

As at 31 May 2006, 260 applications have been successful in securing *Regional Partnerships* funding in 2005-06.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 39

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: *Regional Partnerships*

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Stephens asked:

How many applications were unsuccessful in securing *Regional Partnerships* funding to date in 2005-06?

Answer:

As at 31 May 2006, 111 applications have been unsuccessful in securing *Regional Partnerships* funding in 2005-06.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 40

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Amalgamation of Melbourne Area Consultative Committees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Carr asked:

On what basis has the Minister reviewed the operations of Area Consultative Committees in Melbourne?

Answer:

In conducting the ACC Boundary Review, the Department of Transport and Regional Services considered a range of issues including ACCs' operational costs, other support services in the area, the number of *Regional Partnerships* projects, alignment where practical with local government boundaries, consideration of existing Government structures and presence and where possible align with:

- State Government development regions;
- Regional organisations of councils or combinations of these; and
- Water catchment regions where these correlate to economic interests.

Finally, ACCs should be of a substantial size to allow for efficiencies to be achieved.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 41

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Amalgamation of Melbourne Area Consultative Committees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Carr asked:

What methodology has been used to determine the Minister's proposed changes?

Answer:

The methodology included:

- analysis of program data;
- financial analysis;
- submissions from Area Consultative Committees: and
- consultation with Area Consultative Committees and Government Members and Senators.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 42

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Amalgamation of Melbourne Area Consultative Committees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Carr asked:

Does this follow on from the boundary review process conducted by his predecessor in 2004?

Answer:

The proposed changes are based on an update of the ACC Boundary Review completed in November 2004.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 43

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Amalgamation of Melbourne Area Consultative Committees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Carr asked:

Provide a copy of the result of the 2004 Boundary Review. What has caused the delay in progressing this review?

Answer:

The ACC Boundary Review completed in 2004 is considered advice to the former Minister and it is not appropriate to release publicly. The work from this Review informed the direction of the current Boundary Review.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 44

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Amalgamation of Melbourne Area Consultative Committees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Carr asked:

What cost savings has the Department identified in amalgamating the five Melbourne ACCs?

Answer:

The ACC Boundary Review constitutes advice to the Government and it is not appropriate to release it publicly.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 45

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Amalgamation of Melbourne Area Consultative Committees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Carr asked:

The Minister in his correspondence to the five possibly affected ACCs has said the decision to review their continued independent operation 'does not reflect (a) lack of performance'. Given this is the case, on what objective basis has the Department advised the Minister to progress this amalgamation strategy?

What other restructuring options were considered by the Regional Division of DOTARS?

Answer:

The ACC Boundary Review constitutes advice to the Government and it is not appropriate to release it publicly.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 46

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Amalgamation of Melbourne Area Consultative Committees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Carr asked:

Has the Department identified any benefits as a result of this amalgamation?

Please provide copies of any review documentation that has led to the Ministers suggested course of action to amalgamate Melbourne ACC's.

Answer:

The ACC Boundary Review constitutes advice to the Government and it is not appropriate to release it publicly.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 47

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Amalgamation of Melbourne Area Consultative Committees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Carr asked:

Has the Minister or the Department considered amalgamations in other parts of Australia?

If not, why not?

If so, please provide all relevant documentation relating to the operations of other ACC's whose independent existence is also currently being reviewed by the Government.

Answer:

All metropolitan areas of Australia other than Melbourne already have a single ACC.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 48

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Expenditure on the COAG East Kimberley Indigenous Trial

Hansard Page: 10 (22/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Mr Owen—I do not have sufficient detail with me, but I could do that.

Mr Owen—More than double. We are expecting that total expenditure through to the end of the financial year on projects will be over \$400,000.

Senator O'BRIEN—Can you give us a breakdown of those projects?

Mr Owen—I do not have sufficient detail with me, but I could do that.

Answer:

The table below provides a breakdown of all projects being funded by Department in the East Kimberley Council of Australian Governments Trial Site in 2005-06.

Table 1 - EK COAG Trial Projects 2005-06 - DOTARS Expenses

Description	05-06 (\$)
Capacity Building	
Remote Area Governance Training Contribution towards the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations Remote Area Governance training for communities participating in the East Kimberley Council of Australian Governments Trial site.	\$39,390
Communications Consultancy First payment towards project to develop a communication strategy and tools to improve communication between community members, government, non government organisations and industry.	\$21,078
Expert and Community Input into Store Layout Expert advice and community input on store layout.	\$10,480
School Student Excursion to Canberra – 2005 Participation based on school attendance in 2005.	\$53,000
Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination Women's Gathering – 2005 Contribution towards cost of women from the Trial site attending the Gathering.	\$34,642
Youth, Sport and Cultural Development	
Garnduwa – Sport and Recreation Bridging funds provided to Garnduwa to extend its sport and recreation program to all of the communities participating in the Trial.	\$25,000
Yiriman – Youth and Culture Bridging funds provided to Yiriman to undertake youth and culture activities in the communities participating in the Trial, in particular to organise a 'back to country' trip.	\$25,000

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Support Community Sport and Recreation Funding to Mulan, Billiluna, Ringer Soak and Balgo for a range of community identified projects i.e. band, gym and audio visual equipment and funds for travel to regional basketball tournaments.	\$85,604
Infrastructure Upgrades and Environmental Health	
Airstrip Lights – Ringer Soak and Billiluna.	\$69,759
Environmental Health – Contribution towards infrastructure in Mulan and Ringer Soak.	\$70,000
Community Maintenance Equipment – Ringer Soak.	\$7,435
TOTAL	\$441,388

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 49

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Expenditure on the COAG East Kimberley Indigenous Trial

Hansard Page: 11 (22/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—You cannot indicate what you expect expenditure will be in that additional \$300,000-odd you were talking about?

Mr Owen—Most of that expenditure relates to supporting activities for youth in and through the communities—things such as sport and recreation activities coordinated by an Indigenous-run sport and recreation group, which will be extending their activities into the COAG trial area; some infrastructure projects in the communities relating to immediate presenting needs; and some contributions to things around youth activities in the communities themselves and support of those. There are some other projects here, but I would prefer if I could to set those out for you.

Answer:

The table below provides a breakdown of projects in the East Kimberley Council of Australian Government Trial Site which have been worked up over 2005-06 and for which payments will be made by the Department between 1 April and 30 June 2006.

Table 2 - EK COAG Trail Projects (1 April to 30 June 2006) - DOTARS Expenses

Description	1 April to 30 June 2006
Capacity Building	
Remote Area Governance Training Contribution towards the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations Remote Area Governance training for communities participating in the East Kimberley Council of Australian Governments Trial site.	\$39,390
Expert and Community Input into Store Layout Expert advice and community input on store layout.	\$10,480
Communications Consultancy First payment towards project to develop a communication strategy and tools to improve communication between community members, government, non government organisations and industry.	\$21,078
Youth, Sport and Cultural Development	
Garnduwa – Sport And Recreation Bridging funds provided to Garnduwa to extend its sport and recreation program to all of the communities participating in the Trial.	\$25,000
Yiriman – Youth and Culture Bridging funds provided to Yiriman to undertake youth and culture activities in the communities participating in the Trial, in particular to	\$25,000

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

organise a 'back to country' trip.	
Support Community Sport and Recreation Funding to Mulan, Billiluna, Ringer Soak and Balgo for a range of community identified projects i.e. band, gym and audio visual equipment and funds for travel to regional basketball tournaments.	\$85,604
Infrastructure Upgrades and Environmental Health	
Airstrip Lights – Ringer Soak and Billiluna.	\$69,759
Environmental Health – Contribution towards infrastructure in Mulan and Ringer Soak.	\$70,000
TOTAL	\$346,311

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question No: REGS 50

Division/Agency: Regional Services

Topic: Mr Taylor's Attendance at Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs

Hansard Page: 11 (22/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—At our last Hearing, Mr Taylor described his participation in meetings of the Australian Government Secretaries Group as a 'major priority' but on checking the *Hansard* I could not tell whether that attitude translated into regular attendance. It may be that you need to provide this on notice, but perhaps we could be provided with advice on the meetings of the Secretaries Group that Mr Taylor has not attended.

Answer:

The current Secretary of the Department of Transport and Regional Services has missed two of 13 meetings. At the 6 October 2005 meeting, the Secretary was on leave and at the meeting on 8 November 2005, he was overseas representing the Government. Ms Susan Page, Deputy Secretary, attended both these meetings in Mike Taylor's place.