

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** CORP 01

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Press Clipping Service

**Hansard Page:** 9 (28/05/08)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—How many copies of the clippings are produced?

**Mr Banham**—I do not have the number of clippings; I can take that on notice.

**Senator NASH**—You do not have how many copies?

**Mr Banham**—A lot of the stuff is done online, where people can actually download the clippings of interest themselves.

**Senator NASH**—Do you have any way of tracking how many are downloaded?

**Mr Banham**—We could give you the number of people who use the system.

**Senator NASH**—If you could take that on notice, that would be great, thanks. Do you provide a press clipping service to other ministers?

**Mr Banham**—Just to parliamentary secretaries and their minister.

**Senator NASH**—Any government members of backbench committees?

**Mr Banham**—Not that I am aware of, Senator. I will check.

**Answer:**

The Department does not provide a press clipping service to government members of backbench committees.

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**Question:** CORP 02

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Press Clipping Service

**Hansard Page:** 10 (28/05/08)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—Could you take that on notice and come back to me. Prior to the last federal election, did the department provide a press clippings service to shadow ministers or any other member or senator in opposition?

**Mr Banham**—I will take that one on notice.

**Senator NASH**—Could you provide also which minister, member or senator it went to

**Answer:**

Prior to November 2006, the Department prepared and distributed a hard-copy package of media articles to Ministerial Offices, Opposition spokespeople and Departmental executives each day. That service was suspended in November 2006 as the new Mediaportal system was trialled.

From May 2007, 11 portfolio shadow ministers and senior advisors received an electronic copy of the daily News Headline Report.

The Members who received the report were the Hon Arch Bevis MP, the Hon Simon Crean MP, the Minister for Trade and the Hon Martin Ferguson MP, the Minister for Resources and Energy and Minister for Tourism.

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**Question:** CORP 03

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Press Clipping Service

**Hansard Page:** 10 (28/05/08)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—Are you aware that the department does not provide that service to the current shadow minister for infrastructure?

**Mr Banham**—I am not aware of that. I will check that.

**Answer:**

There is no arrangement in place for the shadow ministers to receive the News Headline Report – or have access to the Department’s media monitoring service.

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**Question:** CORP 04

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Press Clipping Service

**Hansard Page:** 10 (28/05/08)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—Yes, absolutely. As you are representing the minister, do you know if he has a reason why he has chosen not to provide those to the current shadow minister?

**Senator Conroy**—I have never to my recollection discussed it with him. I am sure he will note your—well, you haven't actually asked for them yet—but I am sure he will note your comments.

**Senator NASH**—If you would not mind taking to the minister this issue and providing me with a response from the minister

**Senator Conroy**—I will certainly raise it with him on your behalf

**Answer:**

The Minister for Broadcasting, Communications and the Digital Economy has raised this matter with the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, who has advised that he is extending the same courtesy that was extended to him in opposition as the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure.

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**Question:** CORP 05

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Contract Employees

**Hansard Page:** 13 (28/05/08)

**Senator Adams asked:**

**Senator ADAMS**—You can get that on notice, then. What is the part-time equivalent basis? How many employees are employed on contract? What is the average length of their employment period?

**Mr Banham**—I will take that one on notice.

**Answer:**

As at 31 March 2008, the Department:

- employed 86 part-time staff;
- employed 62 non-ongoing staff; and
- the average length of the employment period of these non-ongoing staff from the start of their contract is 10.8 months.

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**Question:** CORP 06

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services  
**Topic:** Cost of Air Travel - Carriers  
**Hansard Page:** 17 (28/05/08)

**Senator Fisher asked:**

**Senator FISHER**—Minister or Ms Page, but probably Minister: how much money was spent by this portfolio on air travel between Sydney and Canberra since February this year?

**Ms Page**—We will have to take that on notice and we will try to get back to you.

**Senator FISHER**—Thank you, that would be good. Can you inform the committee how much—both in dollar terms and percentage terms—of that travel between Sydney and Canberra would have been with Qantas and how much with Virgin?

**Ms Page**—Yes, we can do that.

**Answer:**

The Infrastructure portfolio spent a total of \$605,020 on air travel between Sydney and Canberra from February to May this year. The reporting period used by the Department of Finance and Deregulation covers the period April – June 2008 and it was on this period that the Department based its oral evidence to the Committee. Please see detailed breakdown below of portfolio agencies spend.

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

	\$	% of Expenditure	% of Trips Undertaken
Qantas	\$299,779	80.5%	78%
Virgin Blue	\$73,304	19.5%	22%
<b>AMSA</b>			
Qantas	\$35,400	96%	96%
Virgin Blue	\$1,600	4%	4%
<b>CASA</b>			
Qantas	\$54,913	81%	81%
Virgin Blue	\$6,726	19%	19%

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**Airservices**

Qantas	\$133,298	100%	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$605,020</b>		

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**Question:** CORP 07

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services  
**Topic:** Policy on Air Travel - Carriers  
**Hansard Page:** 17-18 (28/05/08)

**Senator Fisher asked:**

**Senator Conroy**—I think the government introduced recently a policy about using both carriers for the departments.

**Senator FISHER**—I was going to ask you about that, Minister. Can you remind me: what is your policy?

**Senator Conroy**—I am happy to get you the information.

**Ms Page**—I am advised that we are currently at the nominated level of 25 per cent of Sydney-Canberra trips on Virgin.

**Senator FISHER**—When you say ‘at the nominated level’, from your perspective, is that the government’s election commitment?

**Ms Page**—There is a policy promulgated by the department of finance which requires a minimum of 25 per cent Sydney-Canberra government travel to be on Virgin.

**Senator FISHER**—Minister, can you advise me as to whether that is part of the government’s election commitment?

**Senator Conroy**—That falls within the finance portfolio. I am happy to seek information for you on that, but I think that is the policy that is across the Public Service now.

**Ms Page**—It is an administrative policy which accompanied the re-entry of Virgin Blue to the Canberra-Sydney route.

**Senator FISHER**—I would like to know whether it is government policy and whether it was also government policy heading into the election.

**Senator Conroy**—As I said, you are probably asking the wrong minister, in that it is a finance department edict. I am happy to take that on notice and check with the minister for finance rather than the minister for transport and infrastructure, but I am sure we can furnish you some information on that.

**Senator FISHER**—That would be good, Minister, thank you—particularly as to whether adhering to the 25 per cent target is your government’s election commitment—

**Senator Conroy**—Okay.

**Senator FISHER**—as opposed to purely a departmentally administrative policy.

**Answer:**

On 1 February 2008 the Department of Finance and Deregulation issued Finance Circular 2008/01 stating it “requires agencies to set a minimum 25 per cent usage target for smaller airlines on the Canberra-Sydney route for officers undertaking official air travel”.



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**Question:** CORP 08

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Travel Service Provider Reporting

**Hansard Page:** 19 (28/05/08)

**Senator Fisher asked:**

**Senator FISHER**—How do you report your delivery of that target?

**Mr Banham**—Our travel service provider has been instructed to provide us with that specific report every week on the number of people flying on the Sydney-Canberra leg using Virgin Blue.

**Senator FISHER**—Okay. Is that information made publicly available—for example, in your bi-quarterly reports or in your annual report?

**Mr Banham**—I believe it is shortly to be made available on our website. I think all agencies have been asked to publish this information.

**Senator FISHER**—It is not published yet?

**Mr Banham**—I would have to confirm if it has actually cut in at this moment, but I am aware that we have had a request that it be made public.

**Senator FISHER**—By when will that information be made public on the department's website?

**Mr Banham**—I will have to confirm that.

**Senator FISHER**—I would appreciate that. I will take that as a second question on notice. Thank you, Chair; I do have further questions on notice relating to actual expenditure year-by-year, but I will provide them on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of Finance and Deregulation will publish this information on their website in August 2008.

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**Question:** CORP 9

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Minister's Charter Letter

**Hansard Page:** 22 (28/05/08)

**Senator McGauran asked:**

**Senator McGAURAN**—As the minister's representative you probably can answer this: has the minister received his charter letter?

**Senator Conroy**—You mean my personal one, or Mr Albanese's?

**Senator McGAURAN**—Albanese's.

**Senator Conroy**—I will just double check that. I think the answer is no but if there is a change to that I will come back to you.

**Answer:**

Over January and early February 2008, the Prime Minister conducted a series of meetings with each senior portfolio Minister and the Cabinet Secretary. These meetings were arranged as an opportunity, early in the life of the new Government, to discuss the Prime Minister's and Ministers' views on each portfolio's key objectives, priorities and performance measurement and reporting arrangements.

At the conclusion of these meetings, draft charter letters summarising each portfolio's priorities were prepared by the relevant Department and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and provided to the Prime Minister's Office. Following the receipt of all the draft charter letters, the Prime Minister decided that their distribution was not necessary at that point in the Government's first term. As a result, the charter letters were not finalised or issued.

The manner in which successive governments have managed their priorities, including whether charter letters or other approaches are used, has changed from time to time. It is a longstanding convention before this Committee that the policy on how priorities are set by a Government, and the nature or content of those priorities, is not disclosed, to maintain Cabinet confidentiality.

The Prime Minister continues to discuss the Government's objectives including delivery of its election commitments with each Minister.

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**Question:** CORP 10

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Senator Conroy's Meeting with the Prime Minister

**Hansard Page:** 22 (28/05/08)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—When did you have your meeting with the Prime Minister?

**Senator Conroy**—Could I just get my office to send me the details. It was some months ago; I just cannot remember the exact date. If anyone in my office is watching could they let me know when that was.

**Answer:**

Over January and early February 2008, the Prime Minister conducted a series of meetings with each senior portfolio Minister and the Cabinet Secretary. These meetings were arranged as an opportunity, early in the life of the new Government, to discuss the Prime Minister's and Ministers' views on each portfolio's key objectives, priorities and performance measurement and reporting arrangements.

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**Question:** CORP 11

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Department's website

**Hansard Page:** 72 (28/05/08)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—Would you like to report back to the committee when you are confident that everything has been updated to the necessary level right across the department? If you could notify the committee at the point at which you feel that has been reached, that would be great.

**Answer:**

A review of the Department's website will be completed by 31 October 2008.

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**Question:** CORP 12

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Appointments made since 24 November 2007

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2008: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government?

**Answer:**

A document setting out the details requested is **attached**.

Note: A subsequent correction was advised to the Department by the Secretariat at Parliament House that Senator Fierravanti-Wells requests the information from 24 November 2007.

**[CORP 12 attachment]**

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**Question:** CORP 13

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** A list of Quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) in the Portfolio

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

**Answer:**

Based on advice from the Department of Finance and Regulation, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Department) has defined a 'quango' to be an entity that falls within any of the following categories: prescribed agencies under the FMA Act; Commonwealth authorities under the CAC Act; statutory corporations that are not CAC Act Bodies; Commonwealth companies under the CAC Act; other companies; and other entities, but not trusts.

Bodies in these categories within this portfolio are:

prescribed agencies under the FMA Act

- nil

Commonwealth authorities under the CAC Act

- Airservices Australia
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)

statutory corporations that are not CAC Act Bodies

- National Transport Commission

Commonwealth companies under the CAC Act

- Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

other companies

- Australian Road Research Board Transport Research Limited
- Transport Certification Australia Limited

other entities, excluding trusts

- Austroads Incorporated (NSW)

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**Question:** CORP 14

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic: Programs, Initiatives and other undertakings to be carried forward**

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

In relation to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:

- a) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government?
- b) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government?
- c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?

**Answer:**

The Government has made various decisions, including in the Budget context, about the establishment of new programs and initiatives, and changes and terminations to existing programs and initiatives. These are detailed in Portfolio Budget Statements, including for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. There are no programs in the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio that are implemented or allocated differentially on the basis of Federal electorates.

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**Question:** CORP 15

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** ALP Website- Election Promises -Rudd Government

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website <http://www.alp.org.au/> constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?

**Answer:**

As indicated in previous answers on this issue (answer to Questions on Notice 153 to 188 of 12 February 2008), the election commitments made by Federal Labor are on the public record. Those measures implementing commitments that are funded through Budget appropriations to the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio are detailed in Departments' Portfolio Budget Statements.



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**Question:** CORP 16

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Domestic Air Fares Expenditure 3 Financial Years

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fisher asked:**

What was the total amount spent by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on domestic airfares during the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 (year to date) financial years (reported separately)?

**Answer:**

2005/2006 – Total domestic air spend was \$4,256,999

2006/2007 – Total domestic air spend was \$3,465,790

2007/2008 (YTD) – Total domestic air spend was \$3,590,038

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**Question:** CORP 17

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Economy Class Air Travel Expenditure 3 Financial Years

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fisher asked:**

What was the total amount spent by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on economy class domestic airfares during the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008(year to date) financial years (reported separately)?

**Answer:**

2005/06 – Total domestic air spend on economy class was \$3,872,592

2006/07 – Total domestic air spend on economy class was \$3,151,096

2007/08 (YTD) – Total domestic air spend on economy class was \$3,128,748

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**Question:** CORP 18

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Business Class Air Travel Expenditure 3 Financial Years

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fisher asked:**

What was the total amount spent by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on business class domestic airfares during the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 (year to date) financial years (reported separately)?

**Answer:**

2005/06 – Total domestic air spend on business class was \$384,407

2006/07 – Total domestic air spend on business class was \$314,694

2007/08 (YTD) – Total domestic air spend on business class was \$461,290

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**Question:** CORP 19

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Domestic Air Fares Expenditure – All Carriers 3 Financial Years

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Of the total amount spent by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on domestic airfares during the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 (year to date) financial years (reported separately) what proportion (in both dollar and percentage terms) was spent with (i) Qantas/Jetstar, (ii) Virgin Blue, (iii) Tiger (where applicable in the 2007/2008 financial year), (iv) Regional Express and (v) others [including chartered flights]?

**Answer:**

2005/06 – Total amount spent and proportion on domestic air with:

	Total Spent	Proportion
(i) Qantas/Jetstar	\$3,820,582	90%
(ii) Virgin Blue	\$268,306	6%
(iii) Regional Express	\$50,423	1%
(iv) Others	\$117,688	3%

2006/07 – Total amount spent and proportion on domestic air with:

	Total Spent	Proportion
(i) Qantas/Jetstar	\$3,129,368	90%
(ii) Virgin Blue	\$190,533	6%
(iii) Regional Express	\$64,447	2%
(iv) Others	\$81,442	2%

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2007/08 – Total amount spent and proportion on domestic air with:

	Total Spent	Proportion
(i) Qantas/Jetstar	\$3,220,251	90%
(ii) Virgin Blue	\$269,838	8%
(iii) Tiger	Nil	0%
(iv) Regional Express	\$46,026	1%
(v) Others	\$53,952	1%
*Charter Flights	\$8,800	

\* All Charter flights are reported under Miscellaneous/Tours.

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**Question:** CORP 20

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Secretary's Absence at the May 2008 Hearings

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

With reference to the failure of the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to appear at the Committee's 2008 Senate Budget Estimates hearing:

- (1) On what date did the Secretary write to the Committee advising that he would be absent from the Hearing?
- (2) On what date was in-principle approval for the Secretary's travel to the International Transport Forum in Leipzig, Germany, given?
- (3) On what date was the Secretary's travel to the International Transport Forum in Leipzig, Germany, confirmed?
- (4) On what date were organisers of the forum informed of Mr Taylor's attendance?
- (5) On what date did the Secretary depart Australia for the meeting?
- (6) On what date did the Secretary return to Australia?
- (7) Who accompanied the Secretary on this trip?
- (8) Can a detailed itinerary for the full trip be provided?
- (9) Can a detailed breakdown of costs associated with the Secretary's trip be provided, including airfares, accommodation, land transport and allowances?
- (10) Can details of the Secretary's official overseas travel since his appointment as Secretary of the department be provided, including, for each trip, details of the purpose, destination/s, who accompanied the Secretary, and full costs?
- (11) Has the Secretary failed to appear at previous Estimates Hearings due to overseas travel? If so, please provide details?

**Answer:**

- (1) The Secretary wrote to the Committee on 13 May 2008 advising he would be absent from the hearing. The letter was hand delivered and receipted by the Committee secretariat on 14 May 2008.
- (2) Minister Albanese responded on 28 April 2008 to an invitation to him from Ms Anu Vehvilainen, Finnish Minister of Transport and President of the International Transport Forum of Ministers, to attend the International Transport Forum on 28-30 May 2008 in Leipzig, Germany. Minister Albanese advised that parliamentary duties prevented him from attending the forum in person and that the Secretary would represent him.
- (3) See the response to (2) above.
- (4) See the response to (2) above.

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- (5) Wednesday, 21 May 2008
- (6) Saturday, 31 May 2008
- (7) Mr R Wood accompanied the Secretary during the Paris, Brussels and Berlin stages (21-27 May 2008) in respect of the EU-Australian Airservices Agreement, and  
Mr P Potterton and Ms D Holmesby accompanied the Secretary in Leipzig (28-30 May 2008) for the International Transport Forum of Ministers.
- (8) The list of official meetings is listed below

Paris – (22 – 25 May)

- Australia's Ambassador in France HE Mr David Ritchie
- Australia's Ambassador to the OECD HE Mr Christopher Langman
- Mr Thierry Lansier, Paris Metro System, Head of Market Analysis & Cooperation
- Mrs Natacha Ferrier, Paris Metro System Market Analysis & Cooperation
- Mr Guy Mizrahi, Paris Metro System, Public Relations Line 14
- Mr Christophe Saintillan, Vice Director of Railway Services and Public Transport, General Direction of Sea and Transports, Ministry of Ecology, Development and Infrastructures
- Mr Christian Masset, Director of Economic and Financial Affairs, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
- Professor Stephen Tangermann, Director Trade And Agriculture, OECD
- Mr Ken Ash, Deputy Director Trade & Agriculture, OECD
- Mr Ian Cronshaw, Head of Division of Energy Diversification, International Energy Agency
- Mr Roland Pittar, Australia's OECD Delegation
- Mr Graham Andrews, Australia's OECD Delegation
- Mme Odile Sallard, Director, Public Governance & Territorial Development, OECD
- Mr Mario Pezzini, Deputy Director, Public Governance & Territorial Development, OECD
- International Energy Agency: Energy Technology Policy Division
- Mr Lew Fulton, Senior Transport Energy Analyst, Energy Technology Policy Division, International Energy Agency.
- Mr Pierpaolo Cazzola, Energy Analyst, Energy Technology Policy Division, International Energy Agency.
- Mr Michael Taylor, Energy Analyst; Energy Efficiency and Environment Division, International Energy Agency.
- Ms Barbara Buchner, Energy and Environment Analyst, International Energy Agency.
- Ms Julia Reinaud Policy Analyst, International Energy Agency.
- Mr Jack Short, Secretary General, International Transport Forum

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- Mr Alain Rathery, Deputy Secretary General, International Transport Forum
- Mr Stephen Perkins, Joint Transport Research Centre, International Transport Forum
- Mr Patrick Gandil, Director General, Civil Aviation Authority

Brussels – (25 – 26 May)

- Dr Alan Thomas, Australian Ambassador to the European Communities, Belgium and Luxembourg
- Mr John Watts; Australian Embassy (Australian delegation to the European Communities)
- Ms Marjeta Jager; Directorate General of Transport and Energy
- Ms Mary Tovsak, Slovenian Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Commission
- Ms Yvon Slingenberg, Head of Unit, Emissions Trading Scheme; Directorate General of the Environment
- Mr Peter Witt, German Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Commission
- Mr Zoltan Kazatsay, Deputy Director General, Directorate General Transport and Energy, European Commission
- Mr Daniel Calleja, Director Aviation; Directorate General Transport and Energy, European Commission
- Mr Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, Secretary General, Association of European Airlines
- Mr Kip Hawley, Head, US Transport Security Administration

Berlin – (27 May)

- Mr Achim Grossmann MdB, Parliamentary State Secretary
- Mr Hartmut Spickermann, Head Air Legislation, Airports, Air Traffic Policy Sub-Division
- Mr Thomas Laissle, Chief Financial Officer, Satellic Traffic Management GmbH
- Mr Franzjosef Schaffhausen, Head Environment and Energy Sub-Division, Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Leipzig – (28-31 May)

- Ministers and Officials attending the International Transport Forum (ITF)

(9) The airfare cost was \$17,500.32. The land transport cost was \$416.72. The accommodation and allowances were \$5,891.42.

(10) Overseas Travel

In February 2005 (20/2 to 28/2) the Secretary travelled with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anderson, to London, Brussels, Copenhagen on matters relating to maritime and aviation industries, land transport security, and European aviation market access. The airfare cost was \$15,868.90. The accommodation and allowances were \$4,178.53.



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In November 2005 (4/11 to 13/11) the Secretary travelled to Singapore, Paris, Brussels and London. In Singapore meetings were held with the Singapore Secretary-General of Transport and senior officials from the Civil Aviation Authority to progress aviation security, air services and civil aviation matters. In Paris the Secretary met with senior officials from OECD to progress bilateral negotiations on regional development and international transport arrangements. In Brussels meetings were held with counterparts in the European Transport Commission and Eurocontrol to discuss transport safety, security and civil aviation services. In London discussions were held on civil aviation and maritime administration, and aviation and land transport security. The airfare cost was \$18,392.25. The accommodation and allowances were \$4,126.15.

In January 2006 (9/1 to 17/1) the Secretary accompanied the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Minister Truss, to Beijing, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Manila. In Beijing bilateral approaches to civil aviation and land transport were initiated. In Tokyo Australia participated in the G8+ Ministerial Conference on Transport Security. In Hong Kong and Manila discussions were held on aviation maritime and land transport security. The airfare cost was \$10,910.64. The accommodation and allowances were \$3,560.26.

In April 2006 (9/4 to 13/4) the Secretary travelled to Jakarta, Denpasar and Singapore to chair the Australian-Indonesia Transportation Working Group and to meet with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport to discuss arrangements on aviation, transport security and to seek support for the Australia's APEC 2007 Ministerial Transport meeting. The airfare cost was \$8,934.77. The accommodation and allowances were \$3,058.41.

In May 2006 (18/5 to 29/5) the Secretary travelled to Hanoi, Beijing, Ottawa, Montreal and Washington. In Hanoi the Secretary led the negotiations that resulted in Australia being granted the leadership of the APEC Transport Working Group. In Beijing and Ottawa negotiations on bilateral transport arrangement were progressed, in Montreal meetings were held with the International Civil Aviation Organisation and in Washington discussions took place on aviation, maritime and land transport security, the USA - Australian Airservices Agreement and land transport matters. The airfare cost was \$22,960.79. The accommodation and allowances were \$3,936.65.

In September 2006 (18/9 to 21/9) travelled to Indonesia accompanied by Mr A Tongue to Chair the Australian-Indonesia Transportation Working Group and to discuss aviation and maritime security matters. The airfare cost was \$5,390.66. The accommodation and allowances were \$786.08.

In November 2006 (8/11 to 11/11) the Secretary travelled to Singapore to participate in the Asia Pacific and Middle East Aviation Summit and to meet with the Permanent Secretary, Singapore Ministry of Transport to discuss aviation and land transport issues. The airfare cost was \$6,704.53. The accommodation and allowances were \$863.96.

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In May 2007 (23/5 to 27/5) the Secretary travelled to Indonesia, to meet the Secretary-General, Ministry of Transportation to progress the arrangements of the Australia-Indonesia Transport Safety Assistance Package. The airfare cost was \$6,541.47. The accommodation and allowances were \$877.17.

In June and July 2007 (29/6 to 14/7) the Secretary travelled to Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Washington, Ottawa, Minneapolis and Seattle. In Berlin investigations were undertaken into heavy vehicle road access pricing. In Brussels and Paris negotiations were undertaken to progress the EU-Australian Air Services Agreement and to further work in the harmonisation of aviation security policy, regulation and training, and discuss road safety and transport energy issues. In Washington meetings were held to progress the USA-Australia Air Services Agreement. In Washington and Ottawa discussions were held on transport security, developments in international air services and navigation systems, airport noise and landing management, and land transport matters and biofuel. In Minneapolis consultations were held with the University of Minnesota and the Cargil Corporation on alternative transport fuels including first and second generation biofuels. In Seattle discussions were held with Boeing regarding the introduction of the Boeing 787 and its implications for aviation security and air operating certification. The airfare cost was \$36,999.85. The accommodation and allowances were \$6,911.34

In August 2007 (9/8 to 12/8) the Secretary travelled to Singapore to lead the Australian delegation at the APEC Conference on Measures to Manage Aviation Emissions. The airfare cost was \$6,685.79. The accommodation and allowances were \$508.28.

In September and October 2007 (29/9 to 6/10) the Secretary travelled to Brussels and Washington. In Brussels the Secretary chaired the USA-European-Canadian-Australia Aviation Transport Security Quad. In Washington negotiations on the USA-Australia Air Services Agreement, meetings were also held on aviation security and land transport. The airfare cost was \$19,026.91. The accommodation and allowances were \$2,146.24.

In January and February 2008 (29/1 to 6/2) the Secretary accompanied the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to Jakarta to progress the Australia-Indonesia Transport Safety Assistance Package. The Secretary then travelled to London for discussions on infrastructure assessment and prioritisation, and transport security. In Brussels the Secretary chaired the USA-European-Canadian-Australia Aviation Transport Security Quad. The airfare cost was \$17,565.96. The accommodation and allowances were \$3,494.71.

In February 2008 (11/2 to 17/2) the Secretary travelled to Washington finalise negotiations on the USA-Australia Air Services Agreement, and to attend meetings on transport infrastructure, airspace policy and transport security issues. The airfare cost was \$19,393.40. The accommodation and allowances were \$4,854.63.

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In April 2008 (2/4 to 6/4) travelled to Kuala Lumpur to lead the Australian delegation to the APEC Conference on Practical Measures to manage Aviation Emissions. The airfare cost was \$5,011.82. The accommodation and allowances were \$390.74.

- (11) The Secretary did not attend the Budget estimate hearings in May 2006 due to a meeting in Vietnam where the Secretary led the negotiations that resulted in Australia being granted leadership of the APEC Transportation Group.

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**Question:** CORP 21

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Secretary's Accommodation Allowance

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

Does the Secretary continue to receive an ongoing "temporary" accommodation allowance?

If so:

- (1) Why?
- (2) Is the value of the payment still \$680 a fortnight? If not, when was it varied and how?
- (3) What is the value of payments received by the Secretary, by financial year, including the current financial year-to-date?
- (4) How many other departmental officers enjoy an ongoing "temporary" accommodation allowance?

If not:

- (1) When did the payment of the allowance cease?
- (2) Why did the payment cease?
- (3) What is the value of payments received by the Secretary, by financial year, including, if applicable, the current financial year to date?

**Answer:**

(1) The Secretary is remunerated in accordance with the *Consolidation of Secretaries Remuneration and other Conditions* determination under Section 61 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

The provision for the "temporary" accommodation allowance is set out in section 7.12 of the determination.

(2) The value of the payment has varied over time in accordance with the determination made by the Prime Minister. The current value is as set out in section 7.12 of the determination.

(3) The value of the payments received by the Secretary of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government under the determination for the 2004-05 to 2007-08 financial years are detailed below:

2004-05	\$11,317
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2005-06	\$17,680
2006-07	\$24,204
2007-08	\$25,636

(4) Nil

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**Question:** CORP 22

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Secretary's Reunion Travel Entitlement

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

Does the Secretary continue to enjoy an ongoing reunion travel entitlement?

If so:

- (1) Why?
- (2) Is the maximum value of the entitlement still \$6,600 per year? If not, when was it varied and how?
- (3) What is the value of the entitlement accessed by the Secretary, by financial year, including the current financial year to date?
- (4) How many other departmental officers enjoy an ongoing reunion travel entitlement?

If not:

- (1) When did the entitlement cease?
- (2) Why did it cease?
- (3) What is the value of the entitlement accessed by the Secretary, by financial year, including, if applicable, the current financial year to date?

**Answer:**

(1) The Secretary is remunerated in accordance with the *Consolidation of Secretaries Remuneration and other Conditions* determination under Section 61 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

(2) The provision for reunion travel entitlement is set out in section 7.15 to 7.18 in the determination.

(3) The costs of the Secretary for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government under the determination for reunion travel for the 2004-05 to 2007-08 financial years are detailed below.

2004-05	\$3,303.20
2005-06	\$7,016.56
2006-07	\$7,838.67
2007-08	\$5,233.59

(4) Nil

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**Question:** CORP 23

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Secretary's Associated Entitlements

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

Have costs other than those associated with temporary accommodation and reunion travel been incurred by the Commonwealth as a result of the decision of the Secretary of the Department to reside in Melbourne and not Canberra?

If so, can a breakdown of total costs be provided, including, but not limited to, costs associated with additional travel (including travel allowance and travel by other staff), equipment and communications?

**Answer:**

The Secretary is remunerated in accordance with the *Consolidation of Secretaries Remuneration and other Conditions* determination under Section 61 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

There are no additional business support costs incurred by the Department as a result of the decision of the Secretary of the Department to reside in Melbourne and not Canberra.