

## Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

### Questions on Notice Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014, Monday, 18 November 2013

#### Infrastructure and Regional Development Portfolio

Q no.	Program/ Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written Q	Date rec'd
1	CORP 01	LINES	Machinery of Government changes	<p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Can you provide the committee with a breakdown of all the costs, including the costs of staff time, associated with the change. You have said about \$2,000 in changing your letterheads et cetera, so can you give us a breakdown of the other costs.</p> <p><b>Mr Banham:</b> Our best estimate at this moment for the actual physical change is about \$6,000, and that was almost all going towards removalists to help people move furniture and equipment.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> And staff costs?</p> <p><b>Mr Banham:</b> We do not have a breakdown. We did not record the detail of staff costs.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Given that you were leading, what would you estimate that to be?</p> <p><b>Mr Banham:</b> As I mentioned earlier, it does vary. For some people it was marginal, and some people would have spent a few days working on it.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> But for you it was 20 per cent of your time.</p> <p><b>Mr Banham:</b> For me it was 20 per cent.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Can you get that cost, please?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We will take that on notice and just see what further detail we can provide.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> That is a bit frustrating, because we have the person here who led the change, who cannot give us a sense of—if I were leading change, I would be able to say to you, 'Look, it involved this much staff time; therefore it is this cost.' I do not really think it should be a question on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> I think if you want accurate information, Senator, it is better to do it as a question on notice. I think the question should also cover the savings from bringing two departments together.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> I will put on notice my question of what the costs were, thank you—and thank you, Senator Sinodinos.</p>	6 18/11/2013	

2	CORP 02	GALLACHER	Sick Leave	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Just to stick on the theme of efficiency and staffing levels, where people are going to be based and just to go to the normal costs of operation, since September this year how many sick days have been taken by your departmental officers?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I think the average for the year is about 4.5 days per employee.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> So 1,200 times 4.5?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I think the average is about 4.5 days.</p> <p><b>Mr Banham:</b> It is 4.95.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Are you able to model whether they occur around long weekends, the footy final and those sorts of things?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We do look very closely at such leave arrangements. There is not a pattern like that.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> What is the cost—we are looking at taxpayers' dollars here. So if you have 4.9 or five days times 1,200, what does that actually cost in dollar terms?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I do not have that detail with me. I will have to take it on notice. We obviously do, under our collective agreement, make provision for people to have a certain number of days, which is sick and personal leave. We would obviously factor that into our planning for the year. But I do not have any exact figures. I will take that on notice if that is okay.</p>	8 18/11/2013	
3	CORP 03	GALLACHER	Extended Sick Leave	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> How many staff do you have on extended sick leave?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Again, I would have to check. I will take that on notice. It is a very small number who have some very serious health conditions, but we manage those in accordance with our requirements.</p>	8 18/11/2013	
4	CORP 04	LINES	Division of Ministerial Responsibilities	<p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Can you detail the division of responsibilities between Minister Truss and Assistant Minister Briggs?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Yes. Assistant Minister Briggs has been given a number of specific responsibilities. They are, firstly, for the delivery of the government's significant infrastructure investment package, particularly the government's commitments to the Urban Roads projects, which, as you are aware, are significant commitments by the government in investment. Minister Briggs has responsibility for implementation of those projects. He also has responsibility for infrastructure investment financing reform—funding and financing options for the future of infrastructure investment. He also has particular responsibility for territories within the portfolio. In addition to that, he is also dealing with matters relating to road safety and vehicle standards.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Have those arrangements been finalised or could they change on receipt of a charter letter from the Prime Minister?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> They have been finalised on the advice provided by the Prime Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister.</p>	9-10 18/11/2013	

				<p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Where are these arrangements recorded? Can we find them?  <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> They are set out in the way the department operates, and I will check, but I think the details have been publicly made known by ministers in their public comments.</p>		
5	CORP 05	LINES	Briefings and Submissions	<p><b>Senator LINES:</b> How many briefings and submissions have you made?  <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I would have to take that on notice. It would be a rather large number, I would imagine.  <b>Senator LINES:</b> I would want to know how many were information briefs and how many were decision briefs.  <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We provide briefs to ministers which require action in terms of decisions. I can take on notice how many briefs have been provided.</p>	10 18/11/2013	
6	CORP 06	LUDWIG	Incoming Government Brief	<p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Yes, but what I am asking you to do is to provide the incoming government brief to the same extent that you have just outlined—that is, redacted to that which is material that you do not wish to provide and leave the material that is in the public domain within the incoming government brief and make it available to the committee.  <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We are handling it consistently. If that is an available option, then we will consider that as part of our decisions on the FOI request.  <b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> This is my request here in this committee; it is not in relation to an FOI request. Could you take that on notice?  <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I will take that on notice, but your request does pertain to an FOI request and we are handling it in accordance with the legislation.  <b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> No. Can I say separately that this is not a committee that is subject to FOI or a response from you that the information is unavailable because of an FOI request. I am making a request as a senator of this committee. It is in relation to an incoming government brief. Your response is to this committee, not in relation to an FOI request. I may have misled you, so I will accept that.  <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I now understand. Sorry, Senator; I accept what you are saying. I will take that on notice.</p>	21 18/11/2013	
7	CORP 07	LUDWIG	Departmental Reviews	<p>1. Since 7 September 2013, how many new reviews have been commenced? Please list them including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the date they were ordered;</li> <li>b. the date they commenced;</li> <li>c. the Minister responsible;</li> <li>d. the department responsible;</li> <li>e. the nature of the review;</li> <li>f. their terms of reference;</li> <li>g. the scope of the review;</li> <li>h. whom is conducting the review;</li> </ol>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review;</li> <li>j. the expected report date; and</li> <li>k. if the report will be tabled in parliament or made public.</li> </ul> <p>2. For any review commenced or ordered since 7 September 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors been engaged to assist or conduct the review?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names.</li> <li>b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent.</li> <li>c. If yes, for each what are the costs associated with their involvement, broken down to each cost item.</li> <li>d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement?</li> <li>e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register? Provide details.</li> <li>f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them?</li> <li>g. If yes, for each, who selected them?</li> <li>h. If yes, for each, did the Minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was.</li> <li>ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list.</li> <li>iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur.</li> <li>iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department.</li> <li>v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
8	CORP 08	LUDWIG	Departmental Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since 7 September 2013, what reviews are on-going? Please list them.</li> <li>2. Since 7 September 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.</li> <li>3. Since Budget estimates, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.</li> <li>4. Since 7 September 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.</li> <li>5. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?</li> <li>6. What reviews are planned? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. When will each planned review be commenced?</li> <li>b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?</li> <li>c. When will government respond to each review?</li> <li>d. Will the Government release each review? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If so, when?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written	

				ii. If not, why not?		
9	CORP 09	LUDWIG	Commissioned Reports	<p>Since 7 September 2013, how many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?</li> <li>b. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?</li> </ol>	Written	
10	CORP 10	LUDWIG	Briefings to Other Parties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How are briefings requests commissioned?</li> <li>b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.</li> <li>c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.</li> <li>d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.</li> <li>e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How are briefings requests commissioned?</li> <li>b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.</li> <li>c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.</li> <li>d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.</li> <li>e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.</li> <li>f. Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to parties other than Labor or the Greens? If yes, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How are briefings requests commissioned?</li> <li>b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.</li> <li>c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.</li> <li>d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.</li> <li>e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking these briefings/information requests? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.</li> <li>f. Which parties have requested briefings and/or information?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		
11	CORP 11	LUDWIG	Board Appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide an update of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</li> <li>2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?</li> <li>3. Please detail any board appointments made from 7 September 2013 to date.</li> </ol>	Written	
12	CORP 12	LUDWIG	Stationary Requirements	How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio from 7 September 2013 to date?	Written	
13	CORP 13	LUDWIG	Media Subscriptions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.</li> <li>b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?</li> <li>c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?</li> <li>d. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.</li> <li>b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?</li> <li>c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?</li> <li>d. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.</li> <li>b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?</li> <li>c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	

				<p>d. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?</p> <p>4. What publications does your department/agency purchase?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of publications purchased by the Department and the reason for each.</p> <p>b. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?</p> <p>c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?</p> <p>d. What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?</p>		
14	CORP 14	LUDWIG	Media Monitoring	<p>1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from 7 September 2013 to date?</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?</p> <p>b. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2013-14?</p> <p>c. What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency from 7 September 2013 to date?</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?</p> <p>b. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2013-14?</p> <p>c. What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?</p>	Written	
15	CORP 15	LUDWIG	Media Training	<p>1. In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from 7 September 2013 to date:</p> <p>a. Total spending on these services;</p> <p>b. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification;</p> <p>c. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification); and</p> <p>d. The names of all service providers engaged.</p> <p>2. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <p>a. The name and nature of the service purchased;</p> <p>b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based;</p> <p>c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);</p>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification);</li> <li>e. The total amount spent on the service; and</li> <li>f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)</li> </ul> <p>3. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The location used;</li> <li>b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion;</li> <li>c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification); and</li> <li>d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location.</li> </ul>		
16	CORP 16	LUDWIG	Communications Staff	<p>1. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following: By Department or agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.</li> <li>b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location</li> <li>c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location</li> <li>d. How many are graphic designers?</li> <li>e. How many are media managers?</li> <li>f. How many organise events?</li> </ul> <p>2. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios? If yes, why? When was it established? What is the set up cost? What is the ongoing cost? How many staff work there and what are their classifications?</p>	Written	
17	CORP 17	LUDWIG	Provision of Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?</li> <li>2. For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs from 7 September 2013 to date?</li> <li>3. Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.</li> </ul>	Written	

				<p>4. Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.</p>		
18	CORP 18	LUDWIG	Grants	<p>1. Could the department/agency provide an update list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants from 7 September 2013 to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.</p> <p>2. Have all grant agreement details been published on its website</p> <p>3. Please list all grants that were approved prior to 7 September 2013, but did not have financial contracts in place on 7 September 2013. Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants. Please list which grant applications had been contacted advising of their success. Please provide the current status of these grants. Have any of these grants been cancelled, paused, discontinued or cut?</p>	Written	
19	CORP 19	LUDWIG	Government Payments of Accounts	<p>1. For 7 September 2013 to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?</p> <p>a. If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached</p> <p>b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?</p> <p>c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?</p>	Written	
20	CORP 20	LUDWIG	Consultancies	<p>1. How many consultancies have been undertaken from 7 September 2013 to date?</p> <p>a. Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.</p> <p>b. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.</p>	Written	

21	CORP 21	LUDWIG	Meeting Costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from 7 September to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>3. What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.</li> </ol>	Written	
22	CORP 22	LUDWIG	Public Service efficiencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</li> <li>2. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</li> <li>3. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</li> <li>4. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?</li> <li>b. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not?</li> <li>c. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	
23	CORP 23	LUDWIG	Ministerial Office Security Classifications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the policy for ministerial staff security clearances?</li> <li>2. How many staffers employed by the Government under the MOPS Act have security clearance? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. At what level?</li> <li>b. If not, why not?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. How many seconded departmental officers acting in ministerial offices, including DLOs have security clearances? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. At what level?</li> <li>b. If not, why not?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	
24	CORP 24	LUDWIG	Executive Coaching and Leadership	1. In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from 7 September 2013 to date:	Written	

			<p><b>Training</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total spending on these services</li> <li>2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification</li> <li>3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)</li> <li>4. The names of all service providers engaged</li> <li>5. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The name and nature of the service purchased</li> <li>b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based</li> <li>c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification</li> <li>d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)</li> <li>e. The total amount spent on the service</li> <li>f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The location used</li> <li>b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)</li> <li>c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)</li> <li>d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		
25	CORP 25	LUDWIG	<p><b>Staffing Reductions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from 7 September 2013 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?</li> <li>2. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.</li> <li>3. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut?</li> <li>4. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.</li> <li>5. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.</li> </ol>	Written	

26	CORP 26	LUDWIG	Staffing Cessations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many ongoing staff left the Department/agency from 7 September 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?</li> <li>2. How many non-ongoing staff left the Department/agency from 7 September 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?</li> </ol>	Written	
27	CORP 27	LUDWIG	Staffing Recruitment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many ongoing staff recruited from 7 September 2013 to date? What classification are these staff?</li> <li>2. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created from 7 September 2013 to date? What classification are these staff?</li> <li>3. From 7 September 2013 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</li> </ol>	Written	
28	CORP 28	LUDWIG	Coffee Machines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage since 7 September 2013? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased?</li> <li>b. Why were coffee machines purchased?</li> <li>c. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased?</li> <li>d. Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?</li> <li>e. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?</li> <li>f. Who has access?</li> <li>g. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on from 7 September 2013 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?</li> <li>h. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.</li> <li>b. Why are coffee machines rented?</li> <li>c. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	

				<p>since coffee machines were rented?</p> <p>d. Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?</p> <p>e. Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?</p> <p>f. Who has access?</p> <p>g. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from 7 September 2013 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?</p> <p>3. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?</p>		
29	CORP 29	LUDWIG	Printing	<p>1. How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed from 7 September 2013 to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?</p>	Written	
30	CORP 30	LUDWIG	Corporate Cars	<p>1. How cars are owned by each department/agency?</p> <p>a. Where is the car/s located?</p> <p>b. What is the car/s used for?</p> <p>c. What is the cost of each car from 7 September 2013 to date?</p> <p>d. How far did each car travel from 7 September 2013 to date?</p>	Written	
31	CORP 31	LUDWIG	Taxi Costs	<p>1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from 7 September 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.</p> <p>a. What are the reasons for taxi costs?</p>	Written	
32	CORP 32	LUDWIG	Hire Cars	<p>1. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars from 7 September 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.</p> <p>a. What are the reasons for hire car costs?</p>	Written	
33	CORP 33	LUDWIG	Credit Cards	<p>1. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.</p> <p>2. Please update details of the following?</p> <p>a. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?</p> <p>b. How is corporate credit card use monitored?</p> <p>c. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?</p> <p>d. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.</p> <p>e. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?</p>	Written	

34	CORP 34	LUDWIG	Electricity Purchasing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the details of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement?</li> <li>2. What are the department/agency electricity costs from 7 September 2013 to date?</li> </ol>	Written	
35	CORP 35	LUDWIG	Ministerial Briefings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the department provide a regular briefing to the Minister on the activities of the department and/or any upcoming issues and/or any upcoming matters to come before the Minister?</li> <li>2. In what form does that occur?</li> <li>3. On what basis is that provided?</li> <li>4. What title is this briefing given?</li> </ol>	Written	
36	CORP 36	LUDWIG	Departmental Senate Estimates Briefing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many officers were responsible for preparing the Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?</li> <li>2. How many officer hours were spent on preparing this information? Please break down the house by officer APS classification.</li> <li>3. Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, when did this occur?</li> <li>b. How many versions of this information were shown to the Minister or their office?</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Did the Minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, when did this occur?</li> <li>b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.</li> <li>c. When were the changes made?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	
37	CORP 37	LUDWIG	Freedom of Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can the department please outline the process it undergoes to access Freedom of Information requests?</li> <li>2. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, when?</li> <li>b. If so, how does this occur?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Does the department consult or inform other departments or agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, which departments or agencies?</li> <li>b. If so, when?</li> <li>c. If so, how does this occur?</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when or before it makes a decision on a Freedom of Information request? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, when?</li> <li>b. If so, how does this occur?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Does the department consult or inform other departments or agencies when or before it makes a decision on a Freedom of Information request? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, which departments or agencies?</li> <li>b. If so, when?</li> <li>c. If so, how does this occur?</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. What resources does the department commit to its Freedom of Information team?</li> <li>7. List the staffing resources by APS level assigned solely to Freedom of Information requests.</li> <li>8. List the staffing resources by APS level assigned indirectly to Freedom of Information requests.</li> <li>9. Does the department ever second additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, please detail those resources by APS level.</li> </ol> </li> <li>10. How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the department? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?</li> </ol> </li> <li>11. How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?</li> </ol> </li> <li>12. Of the officers that are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Ministers office, how many are seconded officers from the department?</li> <li>13. What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the department? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received formal training?</li> <li>b. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received informal training?</li> <li>c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?</li> <li>d. What did the training involve?</li> <li>e. How long was the training?</li> <li>f. By whom was the training conducted?</li> </ol> </li> <li>14. What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the Minister's office, excluding those officers on secondment from the department? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		
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				<p>received formal training?</p> <p>b. Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received information training?</p> <p>c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?</p> <p>d. What did the training involve?</p> <p>e. How long was the training?</p> <p>f. By whom was the training conducted?</p>		
38	CORP 38	LUDWIG	Functions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a list of all formal functions or forms of hospitality conducted for the Minister, include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The guest list of each function</li> <li>b. The party or individual who initiated the request for the function</li> <li>c. The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function</li> <li>d. A list of drinks consumed at the function</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order in the Minister's office.</li> </ol>	Written	
39	CORP 39	LUDWIG	Red Tape Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce, or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tap reduction targets? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?</li> <li>3. How have they been recruited?</li> <li>4. What process was used for their appointment?</li> <li>5. What is the total cost of this unit?</li> <li>6. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?</li> <li>7. List the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.</li> </ol>	Written	
40	CORP 40	LUDWIG	Hospitality and Entertainment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for all events including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>3. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and</li> </ol>	Written	

				<p>drinks costs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>6. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>7. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.</li> <li>9. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are they?</li> </ol>		
41	CORP 41	LUDWIG	Travel Costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).</li> <li>2. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.</li> <li>3. What travel is planned for the rest of the year from 7 September 2013? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.</li> <li>4. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets?</li> <li>5. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.</li> <li>6. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.</li> <li>7. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?</li> </ol>	Written	

42	CORP 42	STERLE	Office Arrangements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since the amalgamation of the department have you closed or moved any offices or workplaces? If not – do you have any plans to do so?</li> <li>2. What will be the cost of these moves?</li> <li>3. Have these costs been budgeted? If not – which program will be cut to pay for this / these moves?</li> </ol>	Written	
43	CORP 43	STERLE	Graduate Programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the Department have a graduate program?</li> <li>2. Can you give the committee some details on how it works and what has been the intake over the last three years?</li> <li>3. What are the benefits of running this program – it is obviously important for renewal within the department?</li> <li>4. Has there been any change to this program since the last election? If so, what is the nature of those changes?</li> </ol>	Written	
44	CORP 44	STERLE	Ministerial Offices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the funding arrangements for the Minister and Assistant Minister's offices?</li> <li>2. Is there a specific budget for both offices? or has a specific funding allocation been set aside within the department to meet the costs of operating the ministerial offices in the portfolio?</li> <li>3. Are there administrative arrangements that apply to these budgets? Obviously the Minister(s) or his office cannot spend these funds on anything they like. Can you provide details of those administrative arrangements?</li> <li>4. Can you advise the Committee of the arrangement for expenditure by Minister Truss or his office on hospitality?</li> <li>5. Has the Minister or his office used the office budget or directly drawn on departmental funds for hospitality purposes? If so what are the details? For example, has the Minister or his office purchased wine funded through the office budget or directly drawing on departmental funds. If so, what are the details?</li> <li>6. I understand that a number of Ministers and Assistant Ministers, or their offices, have required new crockery and cutlery for ministerial suites. Has that happened in this portfolio? If so, how was it funded and how was the cost met?</li> <li>7. Which budget did the funding come from – the minister's office budget or the Department? Can you provide me with advice of the basis for approving this sort of purchase?</li> </ol>	Written	
45	CORP 45	STERLE	Regulatory Reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What methodology will this department use to calculate the cost of regulation within the portfolio?</li> <li>2. The policy suggests there will be a standard approach based on a model used in Victoria. The policy requires this department to</li> </ol>	Written	

				<p>establish a dedicated unit led by an officer of at least SES1 level. Has the unit been established, how many staff have been assigned to this new unit and from where have the staff be redeployed?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Is this a full time job for these officers?</li> <li>4. Is the officer who is heading this new unit available to appear?</li> <li>5. According to the policy, Mr Mrdak will be set a specific regulatory performance target both in terms of the number of regulations to be cut and the extent of the impact of those regulations. Has that target been set for this department yet? If yes, what is the target? If no, when do you expect to finalise this target?</li> <li>6. The performance in this area is to be linked to SES pay and also the reappointment of departmental secretaries. How will this work – will missing the target result in a pay cut for SES officers?</li> <li>7. The policy also requires this Department to establish a Ministerial Advisory Council – this council will meet quarterly and provide the Minister with advice on opportunities to cut red and green tape. What is the process for establishing this new council? How will the members be selected and who will be the final decision maker – I assume the Minister? When do you expect the council to be up and running?</li> </ol>		
46	CORP 46	STERLE	Agency Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the department undertaken review of all advisory bodies and agencies in this portfolio?</li> <li>2. Was that at the request of the Minister, or his office or PM&amp;C?</li> <li>3. Is it possible to give the committee a list of all the bodies reviewed – if some were left out of this process - why?</li> </ol>	Written	
47	CORP 47	STERLE	Freedom of Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is the Department’s FOI decision-maker?</li> <li>2. How long has that person been the Department’s decision-maker?</li> <li>3. How many FOI applications have they processed for the Department?</li> <li>4. Has the Department received an FOI request to provide the “blue book”? How many? If so, can you advise of your determination/s?</li> <li>5. Is the Department aware of any changes in Government policy to release of documents under FOI since September 18, 2013?</li> <li>6. Have you received information, advice or instructions with respect to changes in policy or processing of FOI requests since September 18? If so, what was the nature of the information, advice or instructions?</li> <li>7. Have you communicated with other parts of Government about FOI requests you have received, since September 18? If so, who with and what was the nature of that correspondence?</li> </ol>	Written	

48	IA 01	RHIANNON	East West Link Business Case	<p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> Has Infrastructure Australia received the full East West Link business case provided by the Victorian state government?</p> <p><b>Dr Deegan:</b> We have received a briefer version of what we understand is a complete business case. That was provided some time ago.</p> <p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> Is it not correct that the full business case is now available?</p> <p><b>Dr Deegan:</b> It is not available publicly as far as I understand.</p> <p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> So to clarify, you understand it is available but it has not been made available to you?</p> <p><b>Dr Deegan:</b> I am not sure that it is available. That is a matter for the Victorian government.</p> <p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> In the version you have could you outline the cost benefit business case that is set out?</p> <p><b>Dr Deegan:</b> I will take that on notice. There is a fairly detailed response required to that.</p>	14 18/11/2013	
49	IA 02	LUDWIG	Cross River Rail Project	<p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Turning back to the original proposal, which was, as I understand it, the Cross River Rail project, was that assessed by you?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> Yes, it was.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Was there a cost-benefit analysis done on that or at least a cost ratio?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> The Queensland government had undertaken a cost-benefit analysis. We reviewed that. We found it sufficiently rigorous to recommend it for funding.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Did that also include what I would call a cost ratio?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> There was a cost-benefit analysis and a cost ratio done.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Is that available to the committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> I am sure it is in our public reports, but I will make sure that that is available.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Thank you. I think because they have not contacted you it means there are very few further questions I can ask you about that particular project. Perhaps we could follow up in future. If they contact you, can you take it on notice to provide to the committee—let's give it a time limit so we do not put you to too much trouble—in the next month at least the type of contact they make and the nature of that contact</p>	20 18/11/2013	
50	IA 03	GALLACHER	Darlington Project / River Torrens Project	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Mr Deegan, I just want to clarify something in my mind: the Darlington project versus the River Torrens project. Did Infrastructure Australia have an assessment or a view on those respective projects? Also, given the South Road overpass is approaching completion, I am very interested in whether the disconnect between Darlington and the South Road overpass means any loss of efficiency in terms of geography.</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> Infrastructure Australia had been asked to look at the original</p>	28 18/11/2013	

				<p>Torrens proposal, which was undertaken and recommended by Infrastructure Australia as part of its process. While I am aware of those other potential projects, the degree of analysis has not been to the same extent.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> So there has not been a critical, economic analysis of Darlington versus the River Torrens? It has only been an analysis of—</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> So that I do not mislead you, let me take that on notice and just check exactly how much we have done. I will come back to you.</p>		
51	IA 04	STERLE	Congestion Issues	<p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> I can see you are excited about the issues of congestion. There is a lot of work done within Australia and overseas on the congestion issues and the opportunities to deal with that. The current government made some decisions around road funding and issues around congestion will be considered as a normal part of that. The expectation is that it would relieve congestion. They are the sorts of analyses that you would undertake as the projects come to fruition.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> I have no doubt you do. But do you have your own research or do you rely on other—</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> We have done our own, and in any proper cost-benefit analysis you look at the issues on travel-time savings, the benefits that would come by spending each of those dollars.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Is that information available to the committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> I can get you any number of reports on congestion and how that can be managed.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Can we have what information you use, please?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> Yes.</p>	30 18/11/2013	
52	IA 05	STERLE	Hobart International Airport	<p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Has the Tasmanian state government, to the best of your knowledge—or to the best of your knowledge, Mr Deegan—made any advance or any approach to either Infrastructure Australia or the government?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I am not aware of any approach by the Tasmanian government to the department in relation to the project. I do not think there has been any approach to Infrastructure Australia.</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> Perhaps for some background, there has been some discussion—I am not sure whether this particular proposal is attached to it—about issues around how Australia might better service Antarctica, which would involve the airport, the port and other arrangements, but I am not across the particular detail.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> That was forthcoming from the Tasmanian state government?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> Indeed.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Can you tell us then, Mr Deegan, why the original proposal was rejected?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> In our work—this is going back some time—there was a range of</p>	44-45 18/11/2013	

				<p>issues that the Tasmanian government was seeking to resolve with other federal agencies, including the research agencies attached to Antarctica.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Are you aware of any community consultation?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> It may have happened, but I am not aware of it.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Would there be any additional infrastructure required in terms of access roads to and from the Tasmanian highway should this project be successful?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> I do not know the answer to that.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Would you like to take them on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> Sure.</p>		
53	IA 06	STERLE	Public Transport Policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the optimal mix of transport modes required to address road congestion in cities like Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane?</li> <li>2. Is IA aware of any research into the impact of public transport on congestion in cities?</li> <li>3. Assuming new public transport projects were not an option, how would that impact on congestion relief in capital cities like Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane?</li> </ol>	Written	
54	IA 07	STERLE	Westconnex - Sydney	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has WestConnex been assessed by Infrastructure Australia and what is IA's overall assessment of the project?</li> <li>2. Has IA identified any project governance issues, regulatory issues – or other issues that might cause delay to the project?</li> <li>3. IA classifies projects as Early Stage, Real Potential, Threshold and Ready to Proceed – in your National Infrastructure Plan from June 2013, you classified WestConnex as “Early Stage” – what was the reason for that view?</li> <li>4. Does this classification apply to Stage 1 of the project or to the entire project? Is Stage 1 at a more advanced stage?</li> <li>5. Have you done a Problem Identification and Assessment for Stage 1 of WestConnex? What are the problems you have identified?</li> <li>6. Has IA done any Option assessment on those problems? Can you provide details?</li> <li>7. How long do you think it would realistically take a project of the scope of WestConnex to go from “Early Stage” to “Ready to Proceed”?</li> <li>8. Does IA have a view about the project being undertaken in 3 stages? What are the positives/negatives of that staged approach?</li> <li>9. Has IA done any work on the costing of the entire WestConnex project or the Stages of the project? If yes – has IA identified any issues with the costings? Is IA confident in the costings work done by NSW Govt?</li> <li>10. When is Stage 1 scheduled to commence?</li> <li>11. When is Stage 1 scheduled to be completed?</li> </ol>	Written	

55	IA 08	STERLE	Priority List	<p>1. How many projects has IA completed a Benefit-Cost ratio for?</p> <p>2. Can you provide a list of the BCRs by project?</p>	Written	
56	II 01	RUSTON	Outback Highway Upgrade	<p><b>Senator RUSTON:</b> So the previous government has not made any instruction in relation to that highway. Do we have the figures on what has actually been spent so far in terms of the Outback Highway upgrade?</p> <p><b>Mr Deegan:</b> The department would be in a better position to respond to that.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Senator, we can get you that figure—and, as you would be aware, the government has also made, as part of its investment strategy, a significant commitment of \$33 million to the future funding for the Outback Highway.</p>	11 18/11/2013	
57	II 02	RUSTON	Hann Highway	<p><b>Senator RUSTON:</b> Thank you. Just finally, the Hann Highway: was there any assessment done of that particular halfway in relation to its condition, the feasibility for its remediation et cetera?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Not by the department of infrastructure; I will take that on notice to see whether there is any assessment work undertaken by the former department of regional Australia—but certainly not by the infrastructure department, that I am aware of.</p> <p><b>Senator RUSTON:</b> So basically there is no scope or nature of works that would be in place to determine whether that particular highway—</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> There may be advice from the Queensland government, but I take that on notice.</p>	11 18/11/2013	
58	II 03	EDWARDS	Regional Development Australia Fund	<p><b>Senator EDWARDS:</b> Can you give me an idea, with rounds 1 and 2, of how long it was between the opening of those initiatives and the closing of those rounds—what was the period of time?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I will just see if we can help you in relation to that.</p> <p><b>Senator EDWARDS:</b> While you are looking at that, I will continue. You opened rounds 3, 4, 5 and 5B in October last year—is that right, or was it just rounds 3 and 4?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> Senator, are you particularly after details on round 5?</p> <p><b>Senator EDWARDS:</b> I am interested in the timing between rounds 1 and 2. How long was it between when they were opened by the previous government, and they were closed?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> I understand it was around six to eight weeks, but I can provide the details of each of those rounds to you.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Take that on notice.</p>	15 18/11/2013	
59	II 04	EDWARDS	Regional Development	<p><b>Senator EDWARDS:</b> Across the projects that have been contracted so far, can you tell me what percentage of the applications out of Greater Western Sydney</p>	17 18/11/2013	

			Australia Fund – Greater Western Sydney Applications	have been contracted through rounds 3 and 4? <b>Mr Jagers:</b> I will need to take that on notice, in terms of contracts and projects in Greater Western Sydney.		
60	II 05	PERIS	Infrastructure Projects in the Northern Territory	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Thank you, Chair. My question is: what major infrastructure projects in the Northern Territory worth more than a million dollars has the federal government committed to?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar:</b> The government has committed to the upgrade of the Tiger Brennan Drive project in the Northern Territory.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Is there a figure on that?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar:</b> There is.</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> It is a \$70 million commitment.</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar:</b> With an overall project cost of \$103 million.</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> There are also existing projects that the government has indicated it will continue with. They are the Katherine bypass, which is a \$10 million commitment and a national highway strengthening and widening project, which is \$10.9 million this financial year. These figures are from 2013-14 onwards. There are network infrastructure road safety initiatives, including fatigue management. That has \$6.19 million from 2013-14 onwards. There is the new high-level bridge over the King River, which has \$6 million from this year onwards. There is an overtaking lanes project on the Stuart Highway between Katherine and Darwin, and there is \$1.44 million allocated to that project. There is a rail overpass south of Alice Springs with \$13 million from this financial year onwards. There is also the Regional Roads Productivity Package, to the value of \$90 million; an upgraded Central Arnhem road of \$7.66 million; and an upgrade of the Plenty Highway—that is a small upgrade, and a small amount of money at under \$100 million. There is also a \$2 million project to upgrade the Karinga Creek northern approach to Palmer River. And of course the Outback Highway commitment that the government has made runs through a number of jurisdictions, and I think there is \$33 million committed to that project.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Can I ask for a copy of those that you have just stated?</p> <p><b>Ms O'Connell:</b> Yes, we can provide you with that, on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> As to the allocation over the next six years—the \$90 million—is that all included in that breakdown?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> I am sorry; I just missed that question.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> As to the productivity package that you were talking about, is that all broken down over the forthcoming years?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> I might ask Mr Pittar to comment on that.</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar:</b> That Regional Roads Productivity Package is broken down in the form of \$30 million each year from 2014-15 to 2016-17—so: \$30 million in 2014-15, \$30 million in 2015-16 and \$30 million in 2016-17.</p>	18-19 18/11/2013	

				<p><b>Ms O'Connell:</b> When we provide you with this, we will provide you with the breakdown in terms of financial years for those projects.</p>		
61	II 06	McLUCAS	Regional Development Australia Fund Contracts	<p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> All uncontracted projects from rounds 2, 3, 4 and 5 have had advice provided to government and it is now considering the matter.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> I am not asking about the nature of the advice. These projects have been through the Regional Development Australia committees. They have been approved. They have been approved by your department, by and large, in that process. I am trying to understand the process you are going through with the review.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Clearly, the government is working its way through a series of programs at the moment in relation to the fiscal impacts of those programs and ascertaining as to whether, given its fiscal targets, whether those programs can be met and delivered. That process obviously takes some time to work through.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> When will we know the result of those deliberations?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> That is a matter for government. I cannot give you a time frame at this stage.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> Minister, I wonder if you could ask the minister's office if we could get an understanding of when decisions will be made about whether these uncontracted projects will proceed?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We can certainly take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> Could we get that information today?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> The government is in the middle of a series of budget processes. I am not sure we can give you an immediate answer to that, but we will do that as quickly as we can.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> I do not want to know the outcome; I just want to know the time frame.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I understand.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> Yes, but it is tied up in these broader processes.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> Minister, is there a way we can find out when we will know what is going to—</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> Yes, we will follow that up and get you an answer about when we can provide that information.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> It is like a scene from <i>Fawlty Towers</i>: 'Eventually'.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> To be fair, there is a broader process that is going on that the officer has alluded to.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> I understand.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> We can give you a time line.</p>	23 18/11/2013	
62	II 07	McLUCAS	National Stronger Regions Fund	<p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> That would be great. I now want to move to the difference between the Regional Development Australia Fund under the former government and the National Stronger Regions Fund. First of all, can I assume that any uncontracted or unspent money in the funds that were allocated under</p>	23 18/11/2013	

				<p>RDAF will move to the National Stronger Regions Fund?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Those are decisions yet to be taken. The government has made an election commitment to introduce the National Stronger Regions Fund from 2015-16, funded at \$200 million per annum. The decisions on the details of that program and the arrangements on how it is to operate are yet to be taken.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> I understand that the National Stronger Regions Fund is to target areas with poor socioeconomic indicators and high unemployment. Is that your understanding?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I will get you the full details. I think the Deputy Prime Minister has made some comments in relation to where the funds will be targeted across the country. We can get you some details of that, but essentially he has made a commitment to look to target areas which are suffering poorer socioeconomic outcomes and facing greater difficulties in economic development.</p>		
63	II 08	McLUCAS	Torres Strait Islander Regional Council Funding Agreement	<p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> Had the department provided the TSIRC a draft contract at September of this year?</p> <p><b>Ms Lindsay:</b> Yes, we had.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> Do you know the date on which that was provided?</p> <p><b>Ms Lindsay:</b> I do not have that with me but we can take it on notice.</p>	24 18/11/2013	
64	II 09	McLUCAS	Torres Strait Islander Regional Council Funding Agreement	<p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> Was the department satisfied that the scope of works was finalised, that the partners had been agreed, that the document provided to the TSIRC was satisfactory to the department at that point?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> I understand we were getting very close to when an agreement could be executed but it had not been at that stage.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> So we were very close. We just basically needed a signature.</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> I believe that is the case.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> We needed a signature and that was about it?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> I need to check that on notice but I believe it was getting close to finalisation</p>	24 18/11/2013	
65	II 10	McLUCAS	National Stronger Regions Fund	<p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> Some funds may flow outside the National Stronger Regions Fund?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> That is a matter for consideration by the government as to whether that is the case. But what I am indicating to you is that if projects are not funded through the current review of the uncontracted projects, then they may be reconsidered through the National Stronger Regions Program.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> So maybe Mr Truss's spokesperson has been misquoted here?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I have not seen the quote, but I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> It says: 'Mr Truss's spokesperson said it will only be considered in the context of the new National Stronger Regions fund, whenever</p>	26 18/11/2013	

				that may be finalised'. <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Again, I will take that on notice, Senator. I am not familiar with the comments. I will check that.		
66	II 11	McLUCAS	Climate Change Mitigation Works in the Torres Strait	<b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> Which project is this? <b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> I call it climate change mitigation works in the Torres Strait. Everyone in the Torres Strait calls it 'sea walls'. It is to provide protection against inundation of sea water, mainly during the February tides. My question goes then to: there has been a view expressed that someone was confident that construction would start before Christmas 2013. Do you think there is any potential for that to be achieved? <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Again, Senator, I would have to take on notice the timing of government decisions. Now that funding commitments have been reached with other levels of government the government is well aware of the desire to move quickly. We do understand the reality that some of that seawall work has a very limited time opportunity to be undertaken.	26 18/11/2013	
67	II 12	GALLACHER	Darlington Project / River Torrens Project	<b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I will rephrase it. My question to the minister after hearing Infrastructure Australia's response is that, with the River Torrens project, \$20 million spent already, houses have been bought, it is also surveyed and ready to go. It looks as though it is happening. The priority to go to Darlington in the absence of an Infrastructure Australia assessment, is that purely a political decision? What is the rationale for going to Darlington over a project already scoped and commenced? <b>Ms Mrdak:</b> Perhaps I will assist initially. We are happy to take on notice advice in more detail from the minister. The government has made clear its view that the Darlington project has more significant benefit in terms of traffic flow and commuter access to the north-south corridor at this time than the Torrens to Torrens project.	28 18/11/2013	
68	II 13	ACTING CHAIR (STERLE)	Great Northern Highway Project	<b>ACTING CHAIR:</b> Thanks, Senator Eggleston. Mr Mrdak, could you or any of your officers inform the committee when was the scheduled commencement date of construction on the Great Northern Highway project at the time of the budget—and its completion date, too, if you have that there. <b>Mr Jagers:</b> I believe we were still in negotiations and discussions with the Western Australian government about the start and completion dates for the project. I do not have a proposed construction commencement date with me. <b>ACTING CHAIR:</b> That is no worries, Mr Jagers: you did not have a commencement and completion date at the time of the budget, and you certainly do not have one now, because we do not even know if it is going to happen—because it is in-continuation. I think you said that, Mr Mrdak? <b>Mr Jagers:</b> Sorry, Senator: there are actually a range of different elements to this project, and they will each have different start and finish dates.	36 18/11/2013	

				<p><b>ACTING CHAIR:</b> Can you arm us with any?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> We have not finalised discussions with Western Australia.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We can certainly take it on notice and give you the program for the Great Northern as it currently stands, and also what were the contemplated previous dates, and come back to you.</p>		
69	II 14	PERIS	NT Regional Roads Productivity Package	<p><b>Mr Pittar:</b> The works involved with the Roper Highway involve construction of bridges in the Roper and Wilton rivers area. The Port Keats Road works is part of that and that is to improve wet season access to a number of communities. The Central Arnhem Road that you mentioned involves the bridge over the Rocky Bottom Creek, which I think you also mentioned. The Buntine Highway work involves pavement strengthening, widening and sealing of targeted sections. There is work on the Arnhem Link Road proposed. Again, that is improving it to a better gravel standard and work also on the Santa Teresa road, which is around pavement strengthening, widening of targeted sections.</p> <p><b>Ms O'Connell:</b> That is the package of those six roads that you read out.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Okay. When you pass me the information with regard to that, you will also be able to give me the funding profile and the breakdown for each of those?</p> <p><b>Ms O'Connell:</b> I am not sure we can give the breakdown of each of those six. We can give a breakdown of the overall funding profile for the package, but we may not be in a position to do so for each of those six individualised items. We will see what we can provide if we do have a profile for any one or more of them.</p>	43 18/11/2013	
70	II 15	PERIS	RDAF Round 5 Applications in the Northern Territory	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Could you please confirm which RDAF round-5 applications in the Northern Territory have been successful in obtaining funding to continue proposed projects of rural and regional local government and community organisations for the construction or upgrade of local infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Sorry, we dealt with RDAF projects this morning. Can I ask for those to be put on notice. I do not have the officers who deal with the projects with me any longer. We can deal with the Regional Development Australia network in this segment but not the projects under RDAF 5. We dealt with some of those this morning.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> I will put that one on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I am happy to take those on notice.</p>	101 18/11/2013	
71	II 16	LUDLAM	Liveable Cities Program	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> The final one, which is actually a budget line item, is the Liveable Cities Program. Is that going to lapse or get the chop, or will that be maintained by the current government?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I think the Liveable Cities Program is in its final year. Government is yet to take any decisions in relation to any future extension of</p>	108 18/11/2013	

				that program. <b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Minister, if I could add that one to your list.		
72	II 17	MACDONALD	Northern Territory Roads to Recovery Package	<p>Question on Notice 60 from Budget Estimates in May 2013 asked the Department to clarify whether advice had been expressly provided to the Northern Territory Government to the effect that the Regional Roads Productivity Package would not be funded prior to 2016-17.</p> <p>In answer to Question on Notice 60 from Budget Estimates in May the Department indicated that no such advice had been provided to the Government of the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The answer also seems at odds with answers provided during Budget Estimates hearings (Hansard pp 16-21 and 80-81 29/05/2013) to the effect that the funding had been "profiled" to 2016-17.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the current status of the Northern Territory Regional Roads to Recovery program?</li> <li>2. Can you confirm that the previous Government delayed funding for the Northern Territory Regional Roads to Recovery package until 2016-17?</li> <li>3. Did the Department, under instruction from the previous Government, knowing that it had in fact delayed this funding, wilfully mislead this committee by providing an answer to a question on notice that denies this fact?</li> </ol>	Written	
73	II 18	MACDONALD	Regional Development Grants	<p>A number of Northern Local Government Authorities, and the TEC-NQ vocational training facility, have contact the office of Senator Ian Macdonald to enquire as to the status of their RDAF funding grants.</p> <p>The Minister's office has indicated that RDAF funding grants awarded under the previous government, where contracts have been signed, will be honoured.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By what criteria will previous funding grants be re-assessed under the 'National Stronger Futures Fund' package?</li> <li>2. Will Local Government Authorities and other entities who had successfully bid for RDAF funding (Rounds three, four and five) be required to re-apply/re-submit their applications through a revised 'National Stronger Futures Fund' process</li> </ol>	Written	
74	II 19	LUDWIG	Bruce Highway	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With regard to the Coalition's election promise for \$6.7 billion in funding to fix Bruce Highway. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</li> <li>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	

				<p>office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.</p> <p>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$6.7 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.</p> <p>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</p> <p>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</p>		
75	II 20	LUDWIG	Bruce Highway	<p>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <p>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</p>	Written	
76	II 21	LUDWIG	Westconnex	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's election promise for \$1.5 billion to ensure Westconnex project gets underway.</p> <p>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, fax's, notes and memos.</p> <p>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$1.5 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.</p> <p>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</p> <p>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</p>	Written	
77	II 22	LUDWIG	Westconnex	<p>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <p>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</p>	Written	

				<p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details</p>		
78	II 23	LUDWIG	M2 Link	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$405 million for the Sydney F3 to M2 Link.</p> <p>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.</p> <p>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$405 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.</p> <p>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</p> <p>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</p>	Written	
79	II 24	LUDWIG	M2 Link	<p>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <p>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</p>	Written	
80	II 25	LUDWIG	Melbourne East West Link	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$1.5 billion to commence construction of Melbourne East West link.</p> <p>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.</p> <p>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$1.5 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.</p> <p>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</p>	Written	

				e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?		
81	II 26	LUDWIG	Melbourne East West Link	<p>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <p>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details</p>	Written	
82	II 27	LUDWIG	Brisbane Gateway Upgrade	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$1 billion to support Brisbane Gateway upgrade.</p> <p>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, fax's, notes and memos.</p> <p>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$1 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.</p> <p>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</p> <p>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</p>	Written	
83	II 28	LUDWIG	Brisbane Gateway Upgrade	<p>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <p>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</p>	Written	
84	II 29	LUDWIG	Swan Valley Bypass	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$615 million to build Swan Valley Bypass.</p> <p>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</p>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, fax's, notes and memos.</li> <li>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$615 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.</li> <li>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</li> <li>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</li> </ul>		
85	II 30	LUDWIG	Swan Valley Bypass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</li> <li>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written	
86	II 31	LUDWIG	Perth Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$686 million to build Perth Gateway Project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</li> <li>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.</li> <li>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$608 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.</li> <li>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</li> <li>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written	
87	II 32	LUDWIG	Perth Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the projects(s)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written	

				<p>funding requirements? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</p>		
88	II 33	LUDWIG	North-South Road Corridor	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$500 million to upgrade Adelaide's North-South Road Corridor.</p> <p>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.</p> <p>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$500 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.</p> <p>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</p> <p>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</p>	Written	
89	II 34	LUDWIG	North-South Road Corridor	<p>2. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <p>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</p>	Written	
90	II 35	LUDWIG	Midland Highway in Tasmania	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$400 million to upgrade Midland Highway in Tasmania.</p> <p>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.</p> <p>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$400 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.</p> <p>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a</p>	Written	

				<p>copy of each.</p> <p>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</p>		
91	II 36	LUDWIG	Midland Highway in Tasmania	<p>a. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <p>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</p>	Written	
92	II 37	LUDWIG	Pacific Highway	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$5.6 billion to duplicate the Pacific Highway from Newcastle to QLD border.</p> <p>a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, fax's, notes and memos.</p> <p>c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$5.6 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.</p> <p>d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</p> <p>e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</p>	Written	
93	II 38	LUDWIG	Pacific Highway	<p>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <p>a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</p>	Written	
94	II 39	LUDWIG	Melbourne-Brisbane Inland	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$300 million to finalise plans, engineering design and environmental assessments for the Melbourne to</p>	Written	

			Rail	<p>Brisbane inland rail.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</li> <li>Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, fax's, notes and memos.</li> <li>Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$300 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.</li> <li>Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</li> <li>Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</li> </ol>		
95	II 40	LUDWIG	Melbourne- Brisbane Inland Rail	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</li> <li>Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Have any other rail projects been discussed with the department? If so, please provide details.</li> </ol>	Written	
96	II 41	LUDWIG	Bridge Repair	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$300 million to upgrade the nation's deteriorating bridges (30 000 bridges need work). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</li> <li>Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.</li> <li>Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$300 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.</li> <li>Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</li> <li>Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	

				not, why not?		
97	II 42	LUDWIG	Bridge Repair	<p>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements? If not, why not?</li> <li>Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</li> </ol> <p>2. How many of the 30 000 bridges the coalition has identified as deteriorating can be repaired for \$300 million? Please provide details.</p>	Written	
98	II 43	LUDWIG	Toowoomba Range Crossing	<p>1. With regard to the Coalition's Election promise to get the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing underway.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlike the other projects, no figure was given to state how much funding the federal government would put towards this project. Has a figure been discussed, proposed or otherwise calculated with the department? If so, please specify how much and how it will be allocated within the project(s)?</li> <li>How much money is actually required to fully fund the project(s)?</li> <li>Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.</li> <li>Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.</li> <li>Please provide a list of projects to be funded and include location and allocated funding amounts.</li> <li>Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.</li> <li>Has the full amount that is required been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?</li> </ol>	Written	
99	II 44	LUDWIG	Toowoomba Range Crossing	<p>1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project? If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project? If so, please provide details.</li> </ol>	Written	

100	II 45	STERLE	Name Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why was the name of the Division changed to drop the phrase Nation Building?</li> <li>2. What are the costs associated with the name change?</li> <li>3. Has there been any reorganisation within the Division since the change of Government? If so, can you explain the rationale for the change? Who drove the change?</li> </ol>	Written	
101	II 46	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the \$15 million proposed to be spent by mid-2014 on the Great Ocean Road for?</li> <li>2. When will this project be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
102	II 47	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the \$45 million proposed to be spent by mid-2014 on the Ravenswood interchange for?</li> <li>2. When will this project be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
103	II 48	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the \$3 million proposed to be spent by mid-2014 on the Condah-Hotspur Road for?</li> <li>2. When will this project be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
104	II 49	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package announcement September 5, 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the \$5 million proposed to be spent by mid-2014 on the Princes Highway East for?</li> <li>2. Where is this?</li> <li>3. When will this project be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
105	II 50	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the \$11 million proposed to be spent by mid-2015 on the Outback Way for?</li> <li>2. When will this project commence?</li> </ol>	Written	
106	II 51	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the \$13 million proposed to be spent by mid-2015 on the Kin Ora Roundabout for?</li> <li>2. When will this project commence?</li> </ol>	Written	

			Package Announcement September 5, 2013			
107	II 52	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	1. When will the Jane Street extension commence in construction?	Written	
108	II 53	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	1. When will the Narellan Road project commence in construction? 2. When will construction be complete?	Written	
109	II 54	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	1. When month is scheduled for commencement of construction on the Moree Bypass stage 2? 2. When will construction be complete?	Written	
110	II 55	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	1. What is the \$5 million proposed to be spent by mid-2015 on the Dalrymple Road project for? 2. When will construction on this project commence? 3. When will construction be complete?	Written	
111	II 56	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	1. What is the \$5 million proposed to be spent by mid-2015 on D'Aguilar Highway project for? 2. When will construction on this project commence? 3. When will construction be complete?	Written	
112	II 57	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement	1. Please list the 27 local road projects to be undertaken by mid-2015? 2. Has the \$26 million been allocated across these projects yet? 3. If so, please indicate the allocations against the projects.	Written	

			September 5, 2013			
113	II 58	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please list the bridge projects that \$60 million allocated to the Bridges renewal programme by mid-2015 is to be spent on?</li> <li>2. Has the \$60 million been allocated across these projects yet?</li> <li>3. If so, please indicate the allocations against the projects.</li> <li>4. When is each project scheduled for completion?</li> </ol>	Written	
114	II 59	STERLE	Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please indicate the projects in the Nation Building Program from which \$1685 million is to be defunded in 2013-4, and the amounts each is to be defunded.</li> <li>2. Please indicate the projects in the Nation Building Program from which \$1571 million is to be defunded in 2014-5, and the amounts each is to be defunded.</li> <li>3. Please indicate the projects in the Nation Building Program from which \$1571 million is to be defunded in 2015-6, and the amounts each is to be defunded.</li> <li>4. Please indicate the projects in the Nation Building Program from which \$1306 million is to be defunded in 2016-7, and the amounts each is to be defunded.</li> </ol>	Written	
115	II 60	STERLE	Bolivia Hill Realignment Project – Regional Infrastructure Fund (\$80 million)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.</li> <li>2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5?</li> <li>3. When will construction be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
116	II 61	STERLE	Scone Rail Level Crossing – Regional Infrastructure Fund (\$45 million)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.</li> <li>2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5?</li> <li>3. When will construction be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
117	II 62	STERLE	Maldon-Dombarton Rail Line	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.</li> <li>2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?</li> <li>3. When will construction be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	

118	II 63	STERLE	Tourle St Bridge and Cormorant Rd – (\$52 million)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.</li> <li>2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?</li> <li>3. When will construction be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
119	II 64	STERLE	Cape York Roads Package (\$210 million)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.</li> <li>2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?</li> <li>3. When will construction be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
120	II 65	STERLE	Peak Downs Highway Upgrade (\$120 million)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.</li> <li>2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?</li> <li>3. When will construction be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
121	II 66	STERLE	Ballarat Freight Hub (\$9.1 million)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.</li> <li>2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?</li> <li>3. When will construction be complete?</li> </ol>	Written	
122	II 67	STERLE	National Network Maintenance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise if there have been any changes to funds allocated for 2014-5 or across the forward estimates. If so, what re the changes in allocation by year?</li> </ol>	Written	
123	II 68	STERLE	Perth Public Transport Package	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the priority you were allocating to this project changed since the election? If yes, why?</li> <li>2. Have you received any representations from the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?</li> <li>3. Have you had any correspondence with the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?</li> <li>4. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia on this project since 18 September 2013?</li> </ol>	Written	
124	II 69	STERLE	Melbourne Metro Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the priority you were allocating to this project changed since the election? If yes, why?</li> <li>2. Have you received any representations from the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since</li> </ol>	Written	

				<p>18 September 2013?</p> <p>3. Have you had any correspondence with the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?</p> <p>4. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia on this project since 18 September 2013?</p>		
125	II 70	STERLE	Brisbane Cross City Rail	<p>1. Has the priority you were allocating to this project changed since the election? If yes, why?</p> <p>2. Have you received any representations from the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?</p> <p>3. Have you had any correspondence with the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?</p> <p>4. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia on this project since 18 September 2013?</p>	Written	
126	II 71	STERLE	Tonsley Park Public Transport Project	<p>1. Has the priority you were allocating to this project changed since the election? If yes, why?</p> <p>2. Have you received any representations from the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?</p> <p>3. Have you had any correspondence with the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?</p> <p>4. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia on this project since 18 September 2013?</p>	Written	
127	II 72	STERLE	Westconnex	<p>1. How much funding is the Federal government providing to NSW for the \$3.4-\$3.6 billion cost of Stage 1?</p> <p>2. Has the Department done any work on costing the WestConnex project?</p> <p>3. What is the Department's view of the total cost of the project, including all Stages?</p> <p>4. What percentage of the WestConnex project will be funded through user payments or tolls?</p> <p>5. What percentage of Stage 1 of WestConnex will be funded through tolls?</p> <p>6. Has the Department done any work in estimating the toll levels needed to fund the project?</p> <p>7. The Prime Minister had previously said that \$1.5 billion of Federal funding was conditional on the project including M4 East – is this</p>	Written	

				<p>section included in Stage 1 as announced on 19 September?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Is the Federal Government attaching any conditions to its funding of the project now?</li> <li>9. What is the timeframe for Stage 1 of WestConnex?</li> <li>10. What role will Department officers have in the project and how many departmental staff will be working on the project? What are their classifications? (ie, SES1 etc).</li> <li>11. Will any work on this project be outsourced or contracted out by the Department?</li> <li>12. When will work commence and what work will be included in the first tenders?</li> <li>13. Has any funding been provided to NSW Government for this project yet? Is the funding being provided in one lump sum or will there be a series of payments?</li> <li>14. If more than one payment, what are the milestones and payment amounts?</li> <li>15. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia regarding this project? If so, what were the discussions about?</li> <li>16. Is the Department aware of whether this project has been identified as a priority project by Infrastructure Australia?</li> </ol>		
128	II 73	STERLE	Tonkin Highway	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the Department currently funding, or planning to fund, any grade separations on the Tonkin Highway? If so, when will these begin?</li> <li>2. How much is being allocated?</li> </ol>	Written	
129	ARTC 01	HEFFERNAN	Fire Hazard on the main Southern Line, NSW	<p><b>Mr Fullerton:</b> We work in with all the authorities. We have 8 ½ thousand kilometres of track, and we have conversations with the fire authorities, the SES. Recently in New South Wales, when the fire cut our line south of Sydney, we worked with those people to close the trains and get access to the corridor. If there are particular areas that you have a concern about, I am more than happy to—</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> The main southern line, I am talking about. The last time our district got burnt out—I used to be the fire controller in our area—I went to the fire, and they said, 'Don't worry, Senator; there are five category so-and-so trucks there.' I drove into town and thought,</p> <p>...</p> <p>You guys want to get fair dinkum. It is a disgrace, and it worries every farmer every time we drive up the bloody line. It is the biggest fire hazard besides some of the roads where they are worried about eating the grass and the fuel load down, and you wonder why the Blue Mountains get burnt out when they</p>	46 18/11/2013	

				will not reduce the fuel load. You want to burn the line—this is you fellows—in August before the spring? That is what you wanted to do last year. It is crap. <b>Mr Fullerton:</b> I am happy to take that on notice and go back and review it.		
130	ARTC 02	HEFFERNAN	Fire Reduction Risk and Supervision	<b>CHAIR:</b> On notice, could you provide to the committee all the regulatory requirements and legal obligations that ARTC has in relation to the corridor with regard to fire reduction risk and supervision? You would not honestly expect any ordinary Australian to believe that slashing anything is a firebreak, would you? I would be interested to see what you are obliged to do and how sensible those obligations are. Thank you very much.	48 18/11/2013	
131	CASA 01	HEFFERNAN	Relationship between CASA and the Rural Fire Service	<b>Mr McCormick:</b> I can give you a notice, if you like, about the relationship between us and the Rural Fire Service. <b>CHAIR:</b> I think it is not between the pilot and the Rural Fire Service; it has to be between you and the Rural Fire Service. There needs to be some steady influence in the cowboy attitude at times. I am not alleging anything, broadly, but it is an uncomfortable feeling that a lot of very learned, experienced pilots have. This guy was disgusted that a remark would be made: 'Are you a man or aren't you? Get up there!' I can give you the details. <b>Mr McCormick:</b> We will look into that.	52 18/11/2013	
132	CASA 02	FAWCETT	Safety – Colour Vision Deficiency	<b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> I will come back to that at another time. Thank you for that clarification today. On another issue of safety, does CASA have any record of incidents or accidents in Australia arising from pilots who have a colour vision deficiency? <b>Mr McCormick:</b> I will have to take that on notice.	54 18/11/2013	

133	CASA 03	FAWCETT	AAT Challenge	<p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> I recognise that, and if you look at Australian aviation history, with things like DME and T-VASI we have led the world on a number of occasions and the rest of the world now thanks us for that. My concern is that there is considerable talk and concern within the industry that CASA is not only seeking to prevent this person from exercising the privileges of an ATPL but is in fact seeking to wind back the decision to pre-1989—pre the Denison case—to realign itself with the FAA and other people. I am just trying to understand whether there is in fact that intent, but, also, if the evidence base is very clear both in the Denison case and in the thousands of hours of flying since, that pilots can operate safely, then what is the safety case for not actually allowing someone to exercise the privileges of an ATPL?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> As to the exact nature of the AAT proceedings, I would prefer not to talk about it. We will take on notice your question about whether we are attempting to withdraw anything. The issue around medical standards is that quite a lot of these medical standards are not set by CASA. In fact we do not set any medical standards. We use whatever the expertise in that particular area says is the requirement, unless we have good reasons to do otherwise. The fact that we have had many years without accidents or incidents—and I will assume for moment we have not, but I will take that on notice—I think we are in a situation where, to go even further, we would need more than a safety case. We would most probably need medical science to tell us that that is probably not too far. As I said, we are already out in front of the world on this. So, we are not actively trying to stop anybody doing anything, but we do have to exercise some degree of caution.</p>	54-55 18/11/2013	
134	CASA 04	XENOPHON	Public Scrutiny of FRMS Approvals	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> That is why I am hoping to see that document sooner rather than later. Can I just move to the new fatigue rules. Will each FRMS approval be available for public scrutiny to ensure that CASA is not creating a commercial advantage for some operators over others, because that is one of the concerns. This is an issue that has been ventilated with you, both in this forum and in other forums, Mr McCormick.</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> Publishing of the FRMSs on a public site?</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> Again, I do not think we have formed an opinion. We will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> It is a pretty important issue, and I might be guided by Senator Fawcett given his expertise in this. For an FRMS approval, again, what harm would there be for that approval to be available for public scrutiny?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> Again, there are safety issues. We have not turned our mind to this. I will take it on notice. Is it your view that they should be published?</p>	60 18/11/2013	

				<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> No, I am asking you: do you consider that each FRMS approval be available for public scrutiny? Surely there is nothing there that would be commercially in confidence.</p>		
135	CASA 05	FAWCETT	CASA IT System	<p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> In question 3 of those notices, you were asked whether the advice of the chief information officer sought prior to the decision being taken. The answer was yes. Perhaps the question was not well framed; what was the advice of the chief information officer? Did he indicated that he thought that Pentana may in fact have a case to claim for breach of IP?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> I will just ask the deputy director, who was more involved, to answer that.</p> <p><b>Mr Farquharson:</b> The CIO raised questions about IT security, in terms of the language in which the platform was originally written in. The first amount of money went to rewriting the code into a SQL database. The advice that we received from trying to do our due diligence was that in any case the code was not even remotely like Pentana's code itself and was written in quite a different code and manner.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> Could you clarify that for us and come back with a trail?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> We certainly will give you a time trail in our responses. I have got them here now for those questions. We have tried to outline them as clearly as we could regarding how it has gone forward.</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> I am asking on that particular point, if you have received advice that his concerns were not valid, could you present the committee with a document to demonstrate that?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> Yes, we can take that on notice.</p>	64 18/11/2013	
136	CASA 06	XENOPHON	Investigation into Airservices Australia – Heads of Power Issue	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Yes, the 172 report was quite critical. It was quite significant that you renewed ASA's license on a conditional basis. That is right, isn't it?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> During this investigation, were you sharing information with the ATSB about your investigation into Airservices Australia?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> The review that we were doing with Airservices was looking at the fact that we also have difficulty in regulating the government entity, as Airservices, in that there is not too much we could do.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Because of a head of power?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> That is a legal issue as well, which I could ask to give you some more information on if you would like.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Maybe, because of time constraints, if we could get that on notice from you about issues of heads of power with respect to your ability to regulate or to give directives to Airservices Australia.</p>	64 18/11/2013	

137	CASA 07	XENOPHON	Investigation into Airservices Australia – Internal Process	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Yes, but there is that little issue of a MOU that came up during the Pel-Air inquiry—about the importance of the memorandum of understanding. I do not want to have to refer to the specific clauses, but that was quite clear in terms of its requirements for information relating to the air-safety issues to be shared between the two organisations. In the course of your investigation—your overview, your review—of Airservices Australia, were you keeping the ATSB updated in respect of that?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> In terms of the internal process I will have to take that on notice. I was not involved closely enough to be able to tell you that.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Again, that raises the vexed issue as to whether the memorandum of understanding was being complied with.</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> The memorandum of understanding, although it deals with an exchange of information, has, up until recent times, been viewed to be about incidents and accidents or other matters that we have information about. A lot of the 172 report does not refer to any particular incident.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> The MOU is broader than that, though. It is not about specific incidents.</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> It is, but I think it generally has a germination point—something to start it or kick it off. The 172 process—I am taking on notice what we did with the report—was about what we thought of Airservices Australia outside of the specific information we received on audits.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Sure. I will not take it any further than this but please take those issues on notice. If, in the course of your investigation or your review of Airservices Australia, you uncovered issues of concern to CASA—and the report did disclose issues of concern; I thought it was quite damning of Airservices Australia—then surely, insofar as the report related to aviation safety, which I think is axiomatic, given the damning nature of that report, isn't that something that the ATSB should have been kept apprised of on a very regular basis?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> What was given to ATSB I will have to take on notice. I understand the thrust of your comments; I do not disagree.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> The MOU may not have been complied with. I am not sure whether it was or not; I just want to know whether the spirit and the letter of the MOU has been complied with in relation to this investigation.</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> If parts of that report were started as a result of electronic incidents—from memory, I think a few of them are referenced in there—that information came from the ATSB to start with. So all we were doing was looking at how those issues hung together or created a bigger picture. Individual issues should be known. As I said, we will take it on notice and I will find out what was said.</p>	65 18/11/2013	
138	CASA 08	FAWCETT	Twin Otter Audit	<p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> Do CASA hold any records of what the content of those verbal outbriefs are?</p>	66-67 18/11/2013	

				<p><b>Mr Campbell:</b> I think you are talking about an exit meeting. I believe that we still have an exit meeting under our current processes and our current surveillance manual, and I believe there would be records of that meeting.</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> Are you able to provide those to the committee? Again, I am only getting one side of the story at the moment, and my understanding is that the exit meeting did not indicate any serious problems that would indicate a show cause notice forthcoming.</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell:</b> I would not expect our inspectors to be talking about show cause at an exit meeting, quite frankly. I think that is a decision that we make as part of our coordinated enforcement process, and it requires input from more people than just the inspectors to start talking about things like a show cause notice. I would expect them to say, 'We found this and this and this,' and we will be in touch with them.</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> I believe Horn Island was the area where the most concern was. I think there was an audit done—I think Twin Otter was the aircraft that was of concern. Can you tell me how many defects were found on that aircraft when you did the audit?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell:</b> I do not recall the Twin Otter. I will have to take that one on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> My understanding is that it was less than a handful of things like landing lights. Again, there is no AAT process we can look at to understand the balance of this argument. Are you able to provide me—even if it is in confidence—with a record of what the deficiencies were that caused the concern in CASA, because I am certainly not seeing the same story from the other side that would lend weight to a grounding situation, which is essentially what has occurred?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> Yes, we will take that on notice and provide you with all the documentation we can. I am cognizant that the committee had a discussion earlier today with Mr Mrdak about FOI versus committee requests, and we acknowledge that anything we give to you will be in confidence. We will do our utmost to give you anything we have available on that, and we will certainly find the reports you refer to and the recommendation paperwork that came to me which led to the serious and imminent risk decision. Is it satisfactory that we go up to that decision point?</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> Yes, that would be good.</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> We will do that. We will take that on notice.</p>		
139	CASA 09	XENOPHON	Report on Aviation Accident Investigations	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Mr McCormick, today marks four years to the day since the ditching of the VH-NGA off Norfolk Island and nearly seven months since the references committee issued its report on aviation accident investigations. Has CASA formulated a response to the recommendations in the report?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> The part that we had to do has been completed. The</p>	58 18/11/2013	

				<p>documents are no longer with CASA.  <b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> But there were various recommendations and you have given your views as to those recommendations to the department?  <b>Mr McCormick:</b> Yes, we have.  <b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> When did you do that?  <b>Mr McCormick:</b> I would have to take the exact date on notice. It was before the election.</p>														
140	CASA 10	FAWCETT	Safety - Colour Vision Deficiency	<p>1. What resources has CASA provided in the AAT investigation of colour vision deficiency in the current AAT investigation? Please provide details in terms of:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Current AAT case (to date)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CASA dollar inputs</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of CASA personnel involved</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total CASA man hours</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third party man hours</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third party costs</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. What is CASA's total allocated budget for the current AAT hearing- forecast or approved as per table above?  3. How do all the above figures compare in broad terms to the AAT Denison case of 1989?</p>		Current AAT case (to date)	CASA dollar inputs		Number of CASA personnel involved		Total CASA man hours		Third party man hours		Third party costs		Written	
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141	ATSB 01	FAWCETT	Safety – Colour Vision Deficiency	<p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> I assume you have been watching on the monitor the proceedings with CASA. Are there any accidents or incidents or concerns in Australia that have been brought to ATSB's attention as a result of a pilot having a colour vision deficiency?  <b>Mr Dolan:</b> I am not aware of any investigations we have undertaken where a contributing factor to an accident was colour vision deficiency. My colleagues might have a different view.  <b>Mr Walsh:</b> No, we would have to take it on notice to do a search of the database to see if we have any cases on record.  <b>Mr Dolan:</b> We will search the database to confirm, but we are reasonably certain that we do not have one of those.</p>	67 18/11/2013													

142	ATSB 02	XENOPHON	Pel-Air	<p>It is now over four years since the ditching of VH-NGA off Norfolk Island, and nearly seven months since the committee issued its report on aviation accident investigations. Has the ATSB formulated a response to this report?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If so, please provide a copy of the response provided to the Minister or department.</li> <li>Will the ATSB be implementing any of the report's recommendations? If so, when?</li> <li>In particular, will the ATSB be withdrawing its report into the Pel-Air incident and conducting a further investigation?</li> <li>Does the Chief Commissioner still maintain the ditching was the fault of the pilot, and that there were no systemic issues involved?</li> </ol>	Written	
143	ATSB 03	XENOPHON	Pel-Air	<p>The ATSB recently completed a review of loss of separation incidents in Australia, and concluded that issues with military ATS were primarily to blame.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does this compare with the CASA review of Airservices Australia, which found serious regulatory breaches and resulted in CASA revoking ASA's ongoing approval? Isn't this in contrast to the ATSB's findings?</li> <li>Given the findings of the Pel-Air report, what confidence can the Australian public have that the ATSB was thorough and rigorous in its investigation, and did not seek to mitigate any impact the investigation may have on CASA or Airservices Australia?</li> <li>Does the ATSB acknowledge that the significant failings of the Pel-Air report, and the lack of response to those failings, puts the ATSB's reputation at risk?</li> </ol>	Written	
144	ATSB 04	XENOPHON	Pel-Air	<p>I note that the Canadian TSB has been commissioned to undertake an independent review of the ATSB's reporting processes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who commissioned the review?</li> <li>Why was the TSB chosen, and who made that choice?</li> <li>What is the process for the review?</li> </ol>	Written	
145	AAA 01	FAWCETT	Bankstown Airport	<p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> Gentlemen, I have some questions on the airport side. I would like to come back to my favourite areas: Bankstown Airport. There is the question of the north-south runway, which is one of the few north-south runways in the Sydney Basin suitable for light aircraft to land when the wind is southerly or northerly. Basically, the feedback to date has been that it is not an</p>	68 18/11/2013	

				<p>issue, but I understand that they had to cease operations on 30 October. Operations were closed due to southerly winds causing excessive and unacceptable crosswinds. I want to come back again to whether the department is planning to take any action around the fact that the terms of the lease to the people who took over the lease for Bankstown Airport were to maintain the aviation facilities as they were at the time of the lease in terms of capability. They have now closed down the only available north-south runway for GA aircraft in that basin. What is the department going to do about it?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Good question.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I am not aware of the circumstances of the loss of that runway during that weather condition. I do not think any of our officers are across that issue. If I may take that on notice—</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> The loss of the runway occurred years ago when the leaseholder wound it up—</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> No, I understand that issue. I just do not know the circumstances of what occurred in October this year in terms of the crosswind and how often. As you know, the basis of the advice some years to enable that runway to be discontinued in use was based on advice of the relatively frequent occurrences when that runway is required. I would need to go back and check that. But, in relation to this matter, the department at this stage is not proposing any further action in relation to that cross runway. In the light of this advice, we will review that position.</p>		
146	AAA 02	CHAIR	Bankstown Airport	<p><b>CHAIR:</b> With great respect—I have been watching this for years too—where do they go? To Camden or somewhere if they are running out of fuel?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> They have to—</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> You used to be able to go to Kingsford Smith, mind you, but I do not think they would have you there.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> No, I suspect the prevailing weather conditions would have impacted a number of airports in the region at that time. I think the issue here, as you know and as we have discussed at length in this committee, is that the advice that was provided at the time of that Bankstown master plan matter was the basis on which the runway was discontinued. I would need to go back and check the circumstances and seek whether further advice was required.</p>	68-69 18/11/2013	
147	AAA 03	CHAIR	Bankstown Airport	<p><b>CHAIR:</b> Maybe you could provide us with the advice that whoever had the power to tick that off—the decision maker—got on the further impact on the flood plain and what the legal remedy would be if someone got flooded who would not have got flooded if—</p> <p><b>Mr Doherty:</b> Unless Ms Horrocks can add any details, I think we should take on notice to find what we can off the file about what happened when that was approved.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Yes. It is a real issue.</p>	69-70 18/11/2013	

				<p><b>Mr Doherty:</b> I understand.</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> In addition, we will take the issue associated with the legal exposure associated with those decisions and any events that would occur subsequently.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> This does happen. Some cotton farmers put up levee banks to protect their cotton farm and, whoosh, someone else gets flooded. I just think there is nothing wrong with it, but there is.</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> As I said, we will take that on notice.</p>		
148	AAA 04	CHAIR	Panel to review aviation safety regulations in Australia	<p><b>CHAIR:</b> Can I invite you to invite the panel to appear before this committee and give us the answer? We would like it to appear because, if we are going to do this properly without fear or favour, I think we would offer the opportunity of privilege.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I will seek some advice, Chair, in relation to how the panel may interact with the committee.</p>	74 18/11/2013	
149	AAA 05	XENOPHON	Foreign ownership of domestic airlines	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Mr Mrdak, I asked questions of the previous government in relation to the restructuring of Virgin Australia and their splitting into domestic and international divisions. In regard to the restructuring of Virgin Australia—which took place about two years ago now?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> About two years ago.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> to take advantage of the unlimited foreign ownership of domestic airlines. With which government agencies did the government or the department consult to ensure that both the spirit and the letter of the Air Navigation Act was complied with? You might want to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I will take that on notice. This department has responsibility for the Air Navigation Act and compliance with that act.</p>	108-9 18/11/2013	
150	AAA 06	XENOPHON	Ownership of Virgin Australia	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> And, in relation to the Air Navigation Act, do you as a department look at any links and any influence, control or commercial relationships between those majority owners of Virgin Australia, the domestic airline, and the Virgin international wing?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> The company has obligations in relation to the way in which it operates to meet the requirements of the Air Navigation Act. We are satisfied on the advice that we have in relation to how the company operates that there is a clear distinction between the ownership and control of Virgin international and the Virgin domestic operation.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Are you able to provide us with details of that advice?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I can certainly take it on notice. I think that the majority of the documentation for the company is available, as a listed entity. We can certainly take on notice the information that is available to be provided to you.</p>	109 18/11/2013	

151	AAA 07	McLUCAS	Hobart International Airport Funding	<p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> The government has committed \$38 million, as you say. I think we are awaiting details on what the full cost will be. Hobart International Airport is currently working on a design and scope of works for the project.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> So where did the \$38 million figure come from?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I think it was identified by the airport as an indicative cost. They are now looking to finalise that cost in some more detail. But the government's commitment is \$38 million.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS:</b> Do you know how much Macquarie Bank, as the owner of the airport, is committing to the project?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I do not have that detail with me at this stage, I am sorry. I will take that on notice.</p>	27 18/11/2013	
152	AAA 08	XENOPHON	Senate Inquiry on Pel Air	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Perhaps I should ask the minister or the secretary this. What difficulty would there be in CASA providing material to the department about the Senate inquiry on Pel Air.</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> Again, Senator, I will have to take that on notice. I am not sure what the protocols are around that.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Perhaps I will ask the secretary. Given the communication that was sent from CASA to the department what difficulty would there be for the department and CASA to provide us with a copy of CASA's response?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> The minister is currently finalising his consideration of a response to the Senate inquiry. I will take that on notice. I do not think there is an issue in principle but I would need to take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> For instance,—I am not saying this would be the case—if the majority of this committee was minded to ask for that response at some stage, whether it waits for the minister's response to the Senate inquiry with recommendations, you do not see any particular difficulty with that as a matter of principle?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Without pre-empting the minister's consideration of the matter, we have put an extensive amount of material and a draft response to successive ministers. Without prejudicing that process I will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Let us not talk at cross purposes here. I am saying that CASA gave a considered response presumably to the Senate inquiry, to the minister, to consider. That itself would not be a draft, it would be a document from CASA to the department. What harm would there be for that document eventually seeing the light of day?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Again, without recalling the exact details of the document, I do not have an issue in principle, but I need to take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> At the end of the day you would not have an issue in principle with that being released, would you, Mr McCormick?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> Again, I will take it on notice. I personally do not, but I am not sure what the protocols are. Perhaps Dr Aleck might have something to say.</p>	59-60 18/11/2013	

153	AAA 09	XENOPHON	CASAs Response to the Senate Report into the Aviation Accident Investigations	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> If we can go back to that, Mr McCormick, to the department and to the minister, I formally request that you table a copy of CASA's response to the department in respect of the Senate report of the inquiry into aviation accident investigations handed in May 2013.</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> I acknowledge your request, Senator, and we will take it on notice and check the legal advice. If it concurs with what we have heard today then we certainly will provide it.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> What has legal advice got to do with it?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> We are merely checking to make sure that that is the case.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Are you suggesting that a request from a committee of the Senate for a document is something that could be fettered by legal advice?</p> <p><b>Mr McCormick:</b> No, Senator, I will not go there. What I am saying is that I will take it on notice and I acknowledge your request.</p>	60-61 18/11/2013	
154	AAA 10	FAWCETT	ATSBs Response to the Senate Report into the Aviation Accident Investigations	<p><b>Mr Dolan:</b> Our starting point will be CASA's response to that particular investigation report on the ABC helicopter you are talking about. We certainly want to understand better the new CASA part 133 and what that means not just for passenger operations but more broadly. Depending on what happens with that, the commission reserves the right to make recommendations after receiving responses from various organisations, but we do not have any power to direct any organisation. We only have the power to recommend.</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> Chair, can I clarify: in the previous discussion Senator Xenophon was asking CASA for a copy of the advice that was provided to the previous minister?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> For which there is no impediment.</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> So I relay the same request to ATSB: that we see a copy of the response to the Senate report into the air accident investigation that was provided to the minister.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I will take that on notice.</p>	68 18/11/2013	
155	AAA 11	MACDONALD	Air Accidents Investigation Inquiry	<p>Question on Notice 01 from Budget Estimates in May 2013 asked the Minister and the Department to provide an indication of when the Minister could be expected to adopt the report, and when the Government could be expected to respond to it.</p> <p>In answer to Question on Notice 01 from Budget Estimates in May 2013 the Department indicated that the Government would be providing a response "as soon as possible".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What action, if any, has been taken by the Department following the report of the Air Accidents Investigation Inquiry?</li> <li>2. What action, if any, was taken by the previous Government following</li> </ol>	Written	

				the report of the Air Accidents Investigation Inquiry?		
156	AAA 12	EDWARDS	Aviation Policy Settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are current circumstances in the Australian domestic aviation market representing a level playing field?</li> <li>2. Do you consider it level where there are different rules for different airlines, in particular foreign ownership rights?</li> <li>3. Is Australia alone in permitting 100 per cent foreign ownership of domestic airlines when no comparable jurisdiction in the world permits the same level of foreign ownership?</li> </ol>	Written	
157	AAA 13	EDWARDS	Aviation Policy Settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much money did the aviation market in Australia loose last year?</li> <li>2. Is it appropriate to be adding more than 5 per cent new capacity to the result? If so, why?</li> </ol>	Written	
158	AAA 14	EDWARDS	Aviation Policy Settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What would be the positive and negative effects of Virgin being fully privatised buy 2 or 3 of its investors?</li> <li>2. Do you consider the division on the domestic and international arms of Virgin to be genuine?</li> <li>3. Do you see Virgin continuing to have access to Australia's air treaty rights with its current business structure?</li> </ol>	Written	
159	AAA 15	URQUHART	Hobart Airport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where did the proposal to re-develop the Hobart Airport originate?</li> <li>2. What percentage of the funding will be provided by the Airports owners?</li> <li>3. Given that the Howard Government privatised Australian airports partly in order to prevent Government having to provide infrastructure improvements, isn't this an admission that that policy failed?</li> <li>4. Who owns the Hobart airport?</li> <li>5. What was the Hobart airport's net profit last financial year?</li> <li>6. Why is the Government giving money to corporations already making huge profits?</li> <li>7. Is it true that this proposal has previously been submitted to Infrastructure Australia by the Tasmanian State Government? Why was that submission rejected?</li> <li>8. Why has the Government decided to ignore the advice of Infrastructure Australia?</li> <li>9. Has there been any community consultation regarding this project?</li> <li>10. Will there be any additional infrastructure required in terms of access roads to and from the Tasman Highway? Who will be responsible for these? Has there been any consultation with Tasmanian Government?</li> </ol>	Written	

160	AA 01	XENOPHON	CASA's investigation into Airservices Australia	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Can I just ask you to pause there. I guess an easier way of dealing with these issues is to ask you whether Airservices Australia has formally responded to CASA's report on their organisation and whether—</p> <p><b>Ms Staib:</b> Yes, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> There has been a formal response?</p> <p><b>Ms Staib:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Is that publicly available?</p> <p><b>Ms Staib:</b> It is not publicly available.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Can I ask you to table that response?</p> <p><b>Ms Staib:</b> Can I take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Is there anything in there that would be commercial-in-confidence at all?</p> <p><b>Ms Staib:</b> My recollection is no, so I can table that response.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Yes. Thank you.</p> <p><b>Ms Staib:</b> We have progressively—</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> I think you are entitled to take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> CASA wrote a report critical of Airservices Australia. I made it very clear to Ms Staib that it was not under her watch, at the time the report was prepared.</p> <p><i>An honourable senator interjecting—</i></p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Well, it's true. It is true. The situation is that, presumably, Airservices Australia has given a formal response to CASA's report.</p> <p><b>Ms Staib:</b> Yes, that is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> So I am just asking for a copy.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Senator, we do not have an objection if the chief executive wants to do it. But, if she wants to think about it, she is entitled to think about it.</p> <p><b>Ms Staib:</b> Senator Xenophon, there have been several responses, in fact. There was the first response, and I have been providing the director with progress reports on our action plans. So we submitted our action plan to him, with the courses of action that we were taking, and also progress reports in regard to milestones completed. So there has been continuing feedback to CASA about our response to that report.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Okay. I would be grateful for copies of those.</p>	78 18/11/2013	
161	AA 02	CHAIR	Maintenance of AWIS	<p><b>Mr Hood:</b> Senator, we are also obviously doing our own follow-up on the fog incidents in Adelaide and in Mildura. My understanding is that the airport is responsible for the maintenance of the AWIS, but we are following that up and if clarification is required of which agency is responsible—</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> So it is not necessarily the Bureau of Meteorology, it</p>	79 18/11/2013	

				<p>is not Airservices Australia; it is the actual airport?</p> <p><b>Mr Hood:</b> That is my understanding. But I am happy to take that on notice and provide a full response in relation to that.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Just pausing there, why would that plane—is this the one that held over the airport and then did an illegal landing?</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Well, it wasn't illegal; it was all about running out of fuel.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Yes, but you wouldn't—</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> He was under the minimum.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> But why, in god's name? It could have gone to bloody Woomera or anywhere else. Why did it hang around there if the weather was shit?</p> <p><b>Mr Hood:</b> Senator, we are also obviously—</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Did Hansard get the expletive on your part, Chair?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> But it's true. That could have been a fatal—just with a simple decision—</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> With the greatest of respect, Mr Hood was about ready to answer and you just both jumped in on him.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> No, no.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> I reckon he could mix it with the pair of you!</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> There is no simple answer. It was not very sensible to hold it—</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Chair, he didn't get the opportunity! He was just about ready to answer and then Senator Xenophon picked up on your choice of language and then you were all into it.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> But you will—</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> You are doing it again. He hasn't got the answer.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> I haven't finished the question.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> You did. You just spoke then.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> You will concede that the guy could have diverted to Woomera or somewhere instead of risking a landing that could have been a catastrophe.</p> <p><b>Mr Hood:</b> There are over four million aircraft movements in Australia a year, very few of which cause us significant concern. I think it is fair to say this is a concerning incident. We are cooperating fully with the ATSB. It is our hope that the ATSB will establish all of the facts and make appropriate recommendations, on which we will act.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> These AWISs, the automatic weather information services: who on earth owns them, controls them, is responsible for them? I am not any wiser now than I was this morning when I asked the Bureau of Meteorology. I am just trying to work it out.</p>		
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				<p><b>Ms Staib:</b> We will take that on notice. As we said, we believe it is the airport's responsibility, but we will confirm that...</p> <p><b>Mr Wolfe:</b> I will be brief. The automatic weather information service, the AWIS, is as Mr Hood has indicated the responsibility of the airport operator. Inside the AWIS is an AWS, an automatic weather station, which is the Bureau of Meteorology's responsibility. The transmitter on top is the airport's; the weather station is BoM's.</p>		
162	AA 03	STERLE	Corporate Hospitality and Executive Expenditure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you provide the Committee, on notice, with a list of all corporate hospitality received by the Senior Executive and Board members in the last 12 months?</li> <li>2. Can you also provide, on notice, a list of all sponsorships and corporate hospitality offered by Senior Management, the cost of each and the business case for each expenditure?</li> <li>3. Can you provide the Committee, on notice, with details of other Executive expenditure, particularly entertainment, for the past 12 months – for example the hiring of the nightclub in Brisbane for a function, the dinner for 60 people at the Ottoman hosted by Airservices? In the case of functions like these, can you also provide the Committee with the attendance list for each function?</li> </ol>	Written	
163	AA 04	STERLE	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you outline for the Committee Airservices' policy on diversity in the workplace, and in particular any strategies you have in place for the recruitment and retention of women in senior management at Airservices.</li> <li>2. On notice, can you provide the Committee with the number of women employed at a senior level at Airservices now and 12 months ago, excluding the position of CEO?</li> </ol>	Written	
164	AA 05	STERLE	New Systems Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Airservices will be investing heavily in a new air traffic control system. Whilst I understand tenders have closed and I wouldn't want you to comment on the evaluation process I am interested in what benefits you hope to get from this new system. Can you also detail and actual quantitative and non-quantitative benefits this new system will bring.</li> <li>2. The new system is a joint project with the Department of Defence and the RAAF. Presumably there is quite a significant economy of scale to be gained from this arrangement. What will the scale of benefit be and does that mean that your customers, and ultimately the taxpayer, will benefit from this arrangement?</li> <li>3. As I understand it, you are leading this joint procurement. Does this also mean that you will be financing defence's portion of the project?</li> </ol>	Written	

165	AA 06	STERLE	Airservices Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you outline for me the Board's program for stakeholder engagement? Note – the Board's program not management's. Does the Board have a program; if not does it intend to develop one?</li> <li>2. Does the Board meet outside of Canberra? When was the last time a full Board meeting was held out of Canberra – and where was it held?</li> </ol>	Written	
166	AMSA 01	CAMERON	Acts that confer obligations on AMSA	<p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> Are there a range of other acts that confer obligations on AMSA?</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> There are a range of acts. The Navigation Act 2012 is one. There are quite a few.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> Could you take it on notice and provide me details of the acts that apply.</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> I can probably name most of them.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> Probably is not good enough; I need to know exactly. I am happy for you to take that on notice. You have got to provide search and rescue services consistent with our obligations under the Chicago Convention, the Safety Convention and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979. So you comply consistently with those obligations?</p>	82 18/11/2013	
167	AMSA 02	CAMERON	Distress Calls	<p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> How many distress calls has AMSA received since 1 July 2013, and how many individual incidents do they relate to?</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> I would have to take that one on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> I assume you have had distress calls, even though you do not know the exact number.</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> We get distress calls daily from right around Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> And what about offshore?</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> You have had offshore distress calls since 1 July?</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> You are taking on notice the number of distress calls. Which agencies were involved in those distress calls?</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> Again, I would have to take that on notice. It depends which jurisdiction they are in, how far from the coast they are.</p>	83 18/11/2013	
168	AMSA 03	CAMERON	Published Reports on Vessels in Distress	<p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> Chair, I am not an interloper, I am a senator. Mr Kinley, why do you no longer publish reports of vessels in distress on your website?</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> We have never published reports of vessels in distress routinely on our website. I think you may be referring to where we had a web based replication of what we had with broadcasts to shipping. We no longer publish that; it is no longer necessary, because those broadcasts go direct to ships that</p>	83 18/11/2013	

				<p>we need to get that information for search and rescue purposes.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> So when was the decision made that those broadcasts would not be put on the web?</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> I would have to confirm that, but it was some weeks ago.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> How long have those broadcasts been published prior to this decision some weeks ago?</p> <p><b>Mr Kinley:</b> I will have to take that one on notice.</p>		
169	AMSA 04	CAMERON	Changes to Government Policy in relation to communicating maritime incidents	<p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> I am happy for you to explain that, but before you go there: Mr Young, are you aware of what form the communication took from government to advise you of the policy change? And can you advise me as to what that policy change was?</p> <p><b>Mr Young:</b> For some years now media, in regards to what we might term asylum-seeker vessels, has been managed by Customs and Border Protection. And we have systematically passed information about incidents to Customs and Border Protection, and announcements on the subject were generally made by Minister Clare. That has not changed. We still pass all the information to Customs and Border Protection, and it is now announced by the government according to the government's methods of working. We observe the policy in action. That is the current state of play.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> So, you just thought the government wanted a change, but I am confused here. Mr Kinley advised me that there was a communication, but he was not sure how that communication was made or who made the communication. Are you saying that is not correct?</p> <p><b>Mr Young:</b> No, I am saying that my understanding is that we have always passed information to Customs and Border Protection, and I would now say the government of the day decides how that information is presented to the public, because it is ministers who make announcements. I am with Mr Kinley in that if you want to know whether we have received a formal communication I would need to take that on notice and go and look.</p> <p><b>Senator CAMERON:</b> So, a formal communication from a minister, from a minister's department or from anyone associated with the minister—I would like to know what that communication was, because Mr Kinley considered there was a communication—as well as who communicated with you and any copies of any communication that is available. Can you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Young:</b> Certainly.</p>	86 18/11/2013	
170	AMSA 05	STERLE	Marine Order 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has AMSA had any discussions with the Minister's office since September 18 on the status of Marine Order 3?</li> <li>2. Why is finalising this order being delayed so long?</li> </ol>	Written	

171	NCA 01	LUNDY	National Capital Open Space System Review	<p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> Thank you very much. I understand that an expert reference panel has been established to guide the final stages of the National Capital Open Space System review. Could you update me briefly on where that review is? I am probably back to Mr Smith now.</p> <p><b>Mr Smith:</b> The National Capital Open Space System review has been going on for about two years now. As part of that process we formed an expert reference group. That group has concluded its work. A draft report has been prepared, and it is currently at a stage where it has gone back to the reference group to confirm that its findings are consistent with their deliberations. We have probably had about 50 per cent of the group respond back on the report. So that is its current status. We have also issued a draft report to a number of agencies in the ACT government just to get some feedback.</p> <p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> Would you be able to provide the draft report to the committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Smith:</b> We could make that available to the committee, yes.</p>	88-89 18/11/2013	
172	NCA 02	Lundy	Paid parking in the parliamentary triangle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the sites in Barton, the Parliamentary Zone and Russell that have been identified as suitable for multi-storey car parks?</li> <li>2. Is there any information on when these developments might be expected to be necessary?</li> <li>3. If so, is there an anticipated timeline for the development of privately owned, multi-storey pay parking in the area?</li> <li>4. Would the scale and location of multi storey parking sites be constrained by the Parliament House Vista Heritage Management Plan?</li> <li>5. What are the factors guiding the balance between levels of short and long stay paid parking in the area?</li> <li>6. Can you anticipate circumstances in which these levels might need to be altered?</li> <li>7. Other than bringing parking costs in the parliamentary triangle in line with paid parking in surrounding areas, were any longer term plans for limiting traffic and parking congestion considered in the course of the NCA's research in to the introduction of paid parking?</li> <li>8. We notice that in your submission you indicate a number of directions for consideration in improving amenity and services in the area – in the course of your operations, have you been progressing these?</li> </ol>	Written	

173	LGT 01	SMITH	Funding Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Australian Local Government Association	<p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Great, fantastic, thank you very much. I am keen to understand whether a funding agreement was signed between the government or the department and the Australian local government association, and if so on what date?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Because of the machinery of government changes I am a recent arrival to this area. I am advised that a funding agreement was signed between the Commonwealth and the Australian Local Government Association on 27 June 2013 for the provision of \$10 million for advertising and media buys as part of the Yes campaign for the referendum question.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Okay. Is that funding agreement available to be presented to the committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I do not know that it has been made public. I will just check with my officers. I will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Thank you very much. Can you tell me how much of that \$10 million was expended between 27 June and the Prime Minister's announcement of 7 September as the election date?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> I understand that the number was approximately \$3.5 million.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> If you could confirm that on notice to me that would be great. Can you provide a breakdown of what that \$3.5 million represents?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We will get the details. The Australian Local Government Association is currently acquitting its expenditure as part of the arrangement for the return of unspent funds. We will endeavour to provide you further information on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Great. Just so I am clear, you will be able to provide me with a breakdown of the \$3.5 million. They are acquitting that at the moment, and you will be able to let me know how of that was print, how much was TV, if there was any, and how much was the creative element?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Yes. We should get that detail in the reconciliation statement from the Local Government Association.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> To your knowledge, of the \$3.5 million, were any moneys spent on flights and accommodation for the yes campaign?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We would have to take that on notice and provide that, with the reconciliation.</p>	93-94 18/11/2013	
174	LGT 02	SMITH	Referendum Task Force Staff	<p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> If that is not the correct evidence, please let me know. I am very confident it is the correct evidence. How many officials were working on the referendum in the department? We know that there was a referendum task force unit. I am just keen to understand how many people were working in the referendum task force unit.</p> <p><b>Ms Fleming:</b> To the best of my recollection, there were around 10 staff at its</p>	94 18/11/2013	

				<p>peak, but there were fewer staff during a large part of that time while it was gearing up. I think there were about 10; there might have been slightly fewer. On 2 August the number peaked at 15.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Can you share with me now what the roles and responsibilities of those 15 people were?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> I think that, given that there were 15 people, it would be easier to take that on notice and provide that to you in writing.</p>		
175	LGT 03	CHAIR	Referendum Task Force Secondees	<p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Fifteen people looking at the funding agreement—</p> <p><b>Ms Fleming:</b> That was just to start. They would have been organising the civics campaign associated with the referendum and other supporting activities, and looking at no campaigns.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Were these secondees?</p> <p><b>Ms Fleming:</b> Some were secondees.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> And the secondees did not get extra pay because they were seconded? They got their Public Service pay plus nothing else?</p> <p><b>Ms Fleming:</b> That is my understanding.</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> They maintained Public Service employment, so they were seconded into the department of regional development at the time.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> How many of them?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> How many of them were seconded?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Yes, this is pretty interesting.</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> There was a mixture of secondees.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Half?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> We would have to look—</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Take that on notice.</p>	94-95 18/11/2013	
176	LGT 04	SMITH	Funding spent on the Yes Campaign	<p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> I would be very, very keen to understand the roles and responsibilities of the 15—whether they were working on the civics education campaign, for example, and whether they were working on the funding agreements. I also want to know which of them, if any, were working to assist the no campaign, whether that be on the funding agreement or on any element of the referendum involved in the no campaign. I am very confident that that will come to nil. I am keen to understand. Could you do an estimate of the cost of those 15 people and the work that they did. Obviously there is the cost of the salaries and the cost, if any, of the work that they were doing. Perhaps they might have been booking advertising.</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> We will provide you with a breakdown of what the staff were assigned to and the associated costs.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Exactly. In addition to that, could you detail what moneys were spent on the yes campaign by the government in addition to the moneys that were spent by the yes campaign. Does that make sense?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> Yes.</p>	95 18/11/2013	

177	LGT 05	STERLE	Constitutional Recognition of Local Government	<p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> I only have two more; I will not take long. The minister has made a decision in relation to the subject; that is a no. Has the minister received any representations from the Australian Local Government Association regarding recognition, to your knowledge?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> The minister has met with the president of the Local Government Association and discussed issues around the winding up of the grant and the like, but I think that is the extent of the conversation.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> Okay. I am only being a little bit cheeky, because we had the inquiry. I know we are not allowed to talk about inquiries, but we are well aware of ALGA's position. But there was no conversation on the substance of it—just the cleaning up.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I think it was just in relation to the handling of the referendum not proceeding.</p> <p><b>Senator STERLE:</b> If it comes to light that there was a bit of anger in the room because ALGA did not get the opportunity to take it to a referendum, I am sure you would take it on notice and let us know, Mr Mrdak</p>	95-96 18/11/2013	
178	LGT 06	SMITH	ALGA Yes Campaign	<p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> So the ALGA yes campaign comprised a funding agreement of \$10 million with the Commonwealth and then contributions from local government authorities from around the country. My understanding is that the government has agreed to reimburse those costs that arose as a result of the funding agreement. Has there been a request for the Commonwealth to reimburse those expenses or those costs that came from its own campaign and which were going to be met by contributions from local government authorities in whole or in part?</p> <p><b>Ms Fleming:</b> I understand the question. In the government's decision to reimburse ALGA, it reimbursed ALGA for its direct and indirect costs directly associated with the campaign. This included the reimbursement of state LGAs for their contributions to the campaign. So it covered the totality of ALGA's expenses in respect of the yes campaign. That amount was the roughly \$3.5 million. ALGA has submitted its documentation to us to support that and we are just working our way through that at the moment.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Just so I am clear, will the information that you provide to the committee be around those expenses that were incurred as a result of the funding agreement? Will you be able to also show those funds that have been reimbursed because of the contributions from local government authorities? Is that clear?</p> <p><b>Ms Fleming:</b> My understanding is that we will outline the elements of the acquittal.</p>	97 18/11/2013	
179	LGT 07	LUDWIG	Flood Affected Regions in Queensland	<p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Is there any intention to visit some of those flood affected regions and speak to the local councils?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I am not aware of the minister's plans at this stage, but I will take</p>	98 18/11/2013	

				that on notice, if that is okay, and come back to you in relation to the minister's plans. As you know, he knows the area very well and is well acquainted with the issues. I am sure that his program will provide for it, but I do not know the details at this point.		
180	LGT 08	LUDWIG	Betterment Fund	<p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Should I ask questions about the betterment fund now?</p> <p><b>Mr McInnes:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> How many projects have been approved under that to date?</p> <p><b>Mr McInnes:</b> I understand that there have been 51 projects approved under the betterment fund to date of a total value of \$49.6 million.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Could you take on notice each individual project, the cost of that project, its location and the type of project that it is. Has there been any further contribution by the Commonwealth or the state to the betterment fund at this time?</p>	98 18/11/2013	
181	LGT 09	LUDWIG	Operation of the NPA	<p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Have you provided any briefings to ministers about how the NPA operates?</p> <p><b>Ms Fleming:</b> Yes, we have advised the minister how the NPA operates. We have briefed the minister on what it covers, its history and how it was extended—those elements.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Did that briefing also include a briefing as to how the QRA operates?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> I believe that it did.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Could you check on that and on whether or not it included a briefing as to how the betterment fund works as well. When was that briefing?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> I do not have the details with me.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> I am happy for you to take any of this on notice if you want to verify it. It is not a test.</p> <p><b>Mr Wilson:</b> I would prefer to do that than try and—</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Please do. It is not a test. I am simply trying to elicit factual information at this point. As I understand from your earlier answer, it will be the Deputy Prime Minister who will attend the Queensland cabinet meetings. Is that the proposal?</p> <p><b>Ms Fleming:</b> That is correct.</p>	99 18/11/2013	
182	LGT 10	PERIS	Casino on Christmas Island	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Christmas Island, casino? You are aware that at least a couple of groups are interested in building a new casino on Christmas Island?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilkins:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Have you briefed the minister on any of these proposals?</p> <p><b>Mr Wilkins:</b> Yes, we have briefed the minister on them.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Has the minister received any correspondence from these</p>	102 18/11/2013	

				<p>proponents?  <b>Mr Wilson:</b> I do not believe so.  <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We will take it on notice. We know the issue has been raised. But I am not too sure whether correspondence has been received.</p>		
183	LGT 11	PERIS	Assessing Aged-care Clients on Christmas Island and Cocos Island	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> What are the current arrangements for assessing aged-care clients on Christmas Island and Cocos Island for removal to the mainland to live in aged-care facilities such as nursing homes?  <b>Mr Taloni:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the details around how it currently functions.</p>	103 18/11/2013	
184	LGT 12	PERIS	Public Housing on Christmas Island	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Could you please provide me with an outline of the demand for and supply of public housing on Christmas Island?  <b>Mr Wilson:</b> I would have to take that on notice to give you an accurate answer.</p>	104 18/11/2013	
185	LGT 13	PERIS	Housing on Christmas Island	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Thank you. So there were two questions there. That was for public housing and also private housing. Fourteen new units have been recently constructed by the Commonwealth on Christmas Island. Do you know who occupies these units? Are they government employees?  <b>Ms Fleming:</b> They are fully let, Senator, but we would have to take on notice the nature of the tenants.</p>	104-5 18/11/2013	
186	LGT 14	PERIS	Raising the Sea Wall on Christmas Island	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Could you provide me with an outline of the investigation of the matter of raising the sea wall at Flying Fish Cove on Christmas Island?  <b>Ms Fleming:</b> I would have to take that on notice.</p>	105 18/11/2013	
187	LGT 15	PERIS	Funding the Sea Wall on Christmas Island	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Does the department investigation recommend that raising the sea wall will mitigate the problem of sand on the road and in the houses of the Malay community at Flying Fish Cove?  <b>Mr Wilson:</b> We will provide you with details on notice.  <b>Senator PERIS:</b> Has the investigation established the cost to fund the raising of the sea wall? Is the department pursuing funding to raise the sea wall? Finally, have there been any recent discussions and communications with the Shire of Christmas Island and the community of Christmas Island regarding the sea wall?  <b>Mr Wilson:</b> The last one I can answer. I understand that our officers on the island have had conversations with regard to the sea wall.</p>	105 18/11/2013	
188	LGT 16	LUNDY	Appointment of new Chief Executive Officer	<p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> It is galloping along, then. I was going to ask you about the time frame. Can you give an indication about when the process will be concluded and the new CEO announced?  <b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I anticipate the panel completing its work in the next two weeks. It will then be a matter for the government as to how they wish to progress the</p>	88 18/11/2013	

				<p>appointment of the chief executive.</p> <p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> And what are the skills and expertise that the panel has identified as being prerequisite for such an appointment?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> The panel has recognised that it is a very unique position, requiring quite a different skill mix. Given the range of activities, the panel is looking for someone with experience in public administration and program and project delivery but also someone who comes with a strong background in planning and an ability in and a good sense of the planning of the National Capital. The panel has some core selection criteria but has drawn widely, and the shortlisting has been established on the basis of people who have a broad range of skills both in public administration and also planning and National Capital issues.</p> <p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> Can you provide the committee with the criteria that you are using for the selection?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Certainly. I would be happy to take that on notice.</p>		
189	LGT 17	LUDWIG	Betterment Fund	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many projects have been appointed for funding by the Queensland Government (jointly funded with the Commonwealth) for the Betterment Fund announced on 28 February 2013? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please list those projects, by type and cost.</li> <li>b. What consultation did the Queensland Government make with the Federal Government on the decision of these projects?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Has the Government been requested to increase the size of the Commonwealth's contribution to the Betterment Fund? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, by whom?</li> <li>b. If so, when?</li> <li>c. If so, what action/s has the Government taken to respond to this request? Please detail.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Has the Government considered increasing the size of the Commonwealth's contribution to the Betterment Fund? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. If so, by whom is this being considered?</li> <li>c. If so, when was this considered?</li> <li>d. If so, who has been consulted?</li> <li>e. If so, what departments or agencies are involved in the decision?</li> <li>f. If so, what Ministers have been consulted in the decision?</li> <li>g. If so, what action or actions has the government taken to progress this consideration? Please detail.</li> <li>h. If not, why not?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If not, who has been consulted on the decision not to adopt this as policy?</li> <li>j. If not, when was this considered?</li> <li>k. If not, who has been consulted?</li> <li>l. If not, what departments or agencies were involved in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>m. If not, what Ministers have been consulted in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>n. If not, what action or actions has the government taken in the decision not to progress this? Please detail.</li> </ul> <p>4. Has the Deputy Prime Minister made any requests or consideration of request to the Minister, Prime Minister or any other Minister seeking to increase the size of the Betterment Fund?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. If so, how has the Deputy Prime Minister made that request?</li> <li>c. If so, when was this considered?</li> <li>d. If so, who has been consulted?</li> <li>e. If so, what departments or agencies are involved in the request?</li> <li>f. If so, what Ministers have been consulted in the request?</li> <li>g. If so, what action or actions has the government taken to progress this? Please detail.</li> <li>h. If not, why not?</li> <li>i. If not, who has been consulted on the decision not to adopt this as policy?</li> <li>j. If not, when was this considered?</li> <li>k. If not, who has been consulted?</li> <li>l. If not, what departments or agencies were involved in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>m. If not, what Ministers have been consulted in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> </ul> <p>5. If not, what action or actions has the government taken in the decision not to progress this? Please detail.</p>		
190	LGT 18	LUDWIG	Increase to the Betterment Fund	<p>On Tuesday 30 April, the now-Deputy Prime Minister was quoted as saying an increase to the betterment fund would mean “any new expenditure is going to have to be offset by savings in other areas.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. What expenditure will be cut to offset the decision to increase the fund?</li> <li>c. When was this decision taken?</li> <li>d. When will this be announced?</li> <li>e. Who has been consulted on this decision?</li> <li>f. What departments or agencies are involved in the decision?</li> </ul>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g. What Ministers have been consulted in the decision?</li> <li>h. If the expenditure won't be offset, why not?</li> <li>i. If the expenditure won't be offset, who has been consulted on the decision not to adopt this as policy?</li> <li>i. If the expenditure won't be offset, when was this considered?</li> <li>a. If the expenditure won't be offset, who has been consulted?</li> <li>b. If the expenditure won't be offset, what departments or agencies were involved in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>c. If the expenditure won't be offset, what Ministers have been consulted in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>d. If the expenditure won't be offset, what action or actions has the government taken in the decision not to progress this? Please detail.</li> </ul>		
191	LGT 19	LUDWIG	More Support for Flood Recovery	<p>On Tuesday 30 April, the now-Deputy Prime Minister was quoted as replying "yes" to a query by the ABC if "a Coalition Government (would) be prepared to provide more support for flood recovery". If this government policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, what is being done to implement that policy?</li> <li>b. If so, by whom is this being considered or implemented?</li> <li>c. If so, when was this considered or implemented?</li> <li>d. If so, who has been consulted?</li> <li>e. If so, what departments or agencies are involved in the policy?</li> <li>f. If so, what Ministers have been consulted in the policy?</li> <li>g. If so, what action or actions has the government taken to progress this policy? Please detail.</li> <li>h. If not, why not?</li> <li>i. If not, who has been consulted on the decision not to adopt this as policy?</li> <li>j. If not, when was this considered?</li> <li>k. If not, who has been consulted?</li> <li>l. If not, what departments or agencies were involved in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>m. If not, what Ministers have been consulted in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>n. If not, what action or actions has the government taken in the decision not to progress this? Please detail.</li> </ul>	Written	
192	LGT 20	LUDWIG	Flood-proof Assets	<p>On Tuesday 30 April, the now-Deputy Prime Minister was also quoted as saying "Well, clearly a lot more money would need to be spent if we're going to flood-proof assets across the nation."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. By how much extra is the commonwealth going to increase the Betterment Fund?</li> <li>b. When was this decision taken?</li> <li>c. When will this be announced?</li> </ul>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Who has been consulted on this decision?</li> <li>e. What departments or agencies are involved in the decision?</li> <li>f. What Ministers have been consulted in the decision?</li> <li>g. If the fund won't be increased, why not?</li> <li>h. If the fund won't be increased, who has been consulted on the decision not to adopt this as policy?</li> <li>i. If the fund won't be increased, when was this considered?</li> <li>j. If the fund won't be increased, who has been consulted?</li> <li>k. If the fund won't be increased, what departments or agencies were involved in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>l. If the fund won't be increased, what Ministers have been consulted in the decision not to adopt the policy?</li> <li>m. If the fund won't be increased, what action or actions has the government taken in the decision not to progress this? Please detail.</li> </ul>		
193	LGT 21	LUDWIG	Queensland Natural Disasters - Oversight	<p>Is the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for oversight of the Commonwealth's contribution to the Queensland natural disasters in 2011 and 2013?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If not, who is?</li> </ul>	Written	
194	LGT 22	LUDWIG	Commonwealth National Disaster Recovery Taskforce	<p>Is the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the Commonwealth National Disaster Recovery Taskforce?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If not, who is?</li> <li>b. What department is the Commonwealth National Disaster Recovery Taskforce contained?</li> </ul>	Written	
195	LGT 23	LUDWIG	Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate	<p>Is the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If not, who is?</li> <li>b. What department is the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate contained in?</li> </ul>	Written	
196	LGT 24	LUDWIG	Queensland Flood Recovery	<p>What is the Minister's vision for Queensland Floods Recovery?</p>	Written	
197	LGT 25	LUDWIG	Queensland Reconstruction Authority	<p>Has the Deputy Prime Minister contacted the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the QRA)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, how did the Minister contact the QRA?</li> <li>b. What was the nature of the contact?</li> <li>c. What did issues did the Minister raise with the QRA?</li> <li>d. What was the QRA's response?</li> <li>e. Has the Minister met in person with the QRA?</li> <li>f. If so, who?</li> </ul>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g. If so, when?</li> <li>h. If so, what did they discuss?</li> <li>i. What did issues did the Minister raise with the QRA?</li> <li>j. What was the QRA's response?</li> <li>k. When will the Minister next make contact with the QRA?</li> <li>l. If not, why not?</li> </ul>		
198	LGT 26	LUDWIG	Contact with Queensland Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience	<p>Since being sworn in as Minister, has the Deputy Prime Minister contacted with the Queensland Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience (the state Minister)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, how did the Minister contact the state Minister?</li> <li>b. What was the nature of the contact?</li> <li>c. What did issues did the Minister raise with the state Minister?</li> <li>d. What was the state Minister's response?</li> <li>e. Have the two met in person?</li> <li>f. If so, when?</li> <li>g. If so, what did they discuss?</li> <li>h. What did issues did the Minister raise with the state Minister?</li> <li>i. What was the state Minister's response?</li> <li>j. When will the Minister next make contact with the state Minister?</li> <li>k. If not, why not?</li> </ul>	Written	
199	LGT 27	LUDWIG	Contact with the Commonwealth National Disaster Recovery Taskforce	<p>Since being sworn in as Minister, has the Deputy Prime Minister contacted or been contacted by the Commonwealth National Disaster Recovery Taskforce (the Taskforce)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, how did the Minister contact the Taskforce?</li> <li>b. What was the nature of the contact?</li> <li>c. What did issues did the Minister raise with the Taskforce?</li> <li>d. Has the Minister met the Taskforce in person?</li> <li>e. If so, when?</li> <li>f. If so, what did they discuss?</li> <li>g. What did issues did the Minister raise with the Taskforce?</li> <li>h. When will the Minister next make contact with the Taskforce?</li> <li>i. If not, why not?</li> </ul>	Written	
200	LGT 28	LUDWIG	Contact with the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate	<p>Since being sworn in as Minister, has the Deputy Prime Minister contacted or been contacted by the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate (the Inspectorate)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, how did the Minister contact the Inspectorate?</li> <li>b. What was the nature of the contact?</li> <li>c. What did issues did the Minister raise with the Inspectorate?</li> <li>d. Has the Minister met the Taskforce in person?</li> <li>e. If so, who?</li> </ul>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. If so, when?</li> <li>g. If so, what did they discuss?</li> <li>h. What did issues did the Minister raise with the Inspectorate?</li> <li>i. When will the Minister next make contact with the Inspectorate?</li> <li>j. If not, why not?</li> </ul>		
201	LGT 29	LUDWIG	Contact with Queensland Treasurer	<p>Since being sworn in as Minister, has the Deputy Prime Minister contacted with the Queensland Treasurer (the state Treasurer)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, how did the Minister contact the state Treasurer?</li> <li>b. What was the nature of the contact?</li> <li>c. What did issues did the Minister raise with the state Treasurer?</li> <li>d. What was the state Treasurer's response?</li> <li>e. Have the two met in person?</li> <li>f. If so, when?</li> <li>g. If so, what did they discuss?</li> <li>h. What did issues did the Minister raise with the state Treasurer?</li> <li>i. What was the state Treasurer's response?</li> <li>j. When will the Minister next make contact with the state Treasurer?</li> <li>k. If not, why not?</li> </ul>	Written	
202	LGT 30	LUDWIG	Contact with Queensland Premier	<p>Since being sworn in as Minister, has the Deputy Prime Minister contacted with the Queensland Premier (the state Premier)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If so, how did the Minister contact the state Premier?</li> <li>b. What was the nature of the contact?</li> <li>c. What did issues did the Minister raise with the Premier?</li> <li>d. What was the Premier's response?</li> <li>e. Have the two met in person?</li> <li>f. If so, when?</li> <li>g. If so, what did they discuss?</li> <li>h. What did issues did the Minister raise with the Premier?</li> <li>i. What was the Premier's response?</li> <li>j. When will the Minister next make contact with the Premier?</li> <li>k. If not, why not?</li> </ul>	Written	
203	LGT 31	LUDWIG	National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery	<p>1. Is the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery (the Agreement) still in effect?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If not, why?</li> <li>b. If not, at whose direction was the agreement ended?</li> <li>c. If not, who has been consulted on the decision to end the agreement?</li> <li>d. If not, when was this considered?</li> <li>e. If not, who has been consulted?</li> </ul>	Written	

				<p>f. If not, what departments or agencies were involved in the decision end the agreement?</p> <p>g. If not, what Ministers have been consulted in the decision to end the agreement?</p> <p>h. If not, what action or actions has the government taken in the decision to end the agreement? Please detail.</p> <p>2. Has the Deputy Prime Minister sought a briefing on the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery?</p> <p>a. If so, by whom?</p> <p>b. If so, when?</p> <p>c. If so, in what format was the briefing delivered?</p> <p>d. If so, what follow up if any did the minister request after the briefing?</p> <p>e. If so, please provide a copy</p> <p>f. If not, why?</p> <p>3. Have any amendments been made to the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery since it was signed on 8 February 2013? If so, please list them, the date they were signed, the date they were made effective and by which jurisdiction the amendments were suggested or initiated.</p> <p>4. Have any amendments to the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery been proposed but not adopted since 7 September 2013? If so, please list them, the date they were proposed, by whom they were proposed and why they were not adopted.</p>		
204	LGT 32	LUDWIG	Queensland Disaster Recovery Cabinet Committee	<p>Has the Deputy Prime Minister participated in the Queensland Disaster Recovery Cabinet Committee?</p> <p>a. If yes, when?</p> <p>b. If yes, where was the meeting held?</p> <p>c. If yes, what was discussed?</p> <p>d. If yes, what did the Minister raise?</p> <p>e. If yes, what outcomes came from the meeting?</p> <p>f. If yes, what public announcements came from the meeting?</p> <p>g. If not, why not?</p> <p>h. If not, what has the Minister done to seek redress this breach the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery?</p>	Written	

205	LGT 33	LUDWIG	Funding Allocation for the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate	What is the current funding allocation for the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate?	Written	
206	LGT 34	LUDWIG	Funding Allocation for the Australian Government Floods Taskforce	What is the current funding allocation for the Australian Government Floods Taskforce?	Written	
207	PAR 01	LUDLAM	National Urban Policy	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Senator Sinodinos, since you are here representing the government, could I ask you whether it is the intention of the Abbott government to maintain, amend or abolish the National Urban Policy?</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> I will need to check with my colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister. I do not recollect us putting out a separate urban policy during the campaign.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> If you did I missed it. But that does not actually answer my question.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> No, but what I am undertaking to do is check with the Deputy Prime Minister.</p>	107 18/11/2013	
208	PAR 02	LUDLAM	Active Transport Policy	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Speaking of which, Senator Sinodinos, through you to the minister responsible, does the active transport policy that the MCU developed for the former government continue in its present form?</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> I will check for you.</p>	108 18/11/2013	
209	PAR 03	PERIS	Commonwealth Office in Northern Australia	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Thank you. On page 29 of the government's policy, it says that they will move departments that have a focus on the north, or components of those departments, to Northern Australia. What plans do you have to put this policy into place?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> At this stage, as I say, our focus has been most immediately on the white paper process. I am not aware of any consideration of those changes at this stage, certainly not within our portfolio. But it is something I will take on notice, Senator, and get you a whole-of-government response to.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> Thank you. Will you join with AQIS and CSIRO—both are</p>	109-110 18/11/2013	

				<p>named in the policy—and other departments to rent or build new Commonwealth offices in Northern Australia?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Again, I do not have any specific knowledge of this. I will check across government and come back to you with a comprehensive response.</p>		
210	PAR 04	PERIS	Commonwealth Office in Northern Australia	<p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> How many in Northern Australia or related policy areas, such as regional development or regional Australia policy, might be affected by this government policy?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Again, without giving you some clarity around the timing and the process, I would have to come back to you on that question. Mr Collett's team has officers in Townsville and Darwin. I will take on notice any implications for them.</p> <p><b>Senator PERIS:</b> How many senior executive staff to you intend to send to a northern office?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Again, I will come back to you with a whole-of-government response. That process is yet to be worked through.</p>	110 18/11/2013	
211	PAR 05	LUDLAM	Establishing Integrated Planning Commissions	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> as I was going through my checklist of former government policies. I would like to ask you about some of your own. Minister Hunt, during the election campaign, flagged the idea of establishing integrated planning commissions for each of our capital cities. The one I am aware of is the one that operated in South Australia. It worked very well and I would not mind an update on whether that commitment can be taken as policy and when that is going to happen.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I will have to take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> You are aware of the commitment that was made?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I am not personally aware of the commitment. I will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> I am aware he spoke about the matter and has written on the matter. What I am not aware of, Senator, is what specific commitment was made in the campaign. But we will follow up and see what we can find.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Mr Hunt has all sorts of opinions on all sorts of things which do not appear to be making their way into government policy. That was a great idea—the one that operated in Adelaide in South Australia did excellent work before it was absorbed into, I think, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I just flag that we will be keeping an eye on that. If you can provide us with any information as that progresses, that would be appreciated.</p>	110 18/11/2013	
212	PAR 06	LUDLAM	A National Liveability Index	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> The now minister also flagged that the Commonwealth would establish a national liveability index under which each city would get its own specific set of targets, annual reporting to commence from 2015. That one is a fairly specific commitment. Is that about to be rolled out?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> We are continuing work that we were previously doing in relation</p>	110 18/11/2013	

				to performance measures for our urban areas, but I am not aware of that specific commitment. Again, can I take that on notice?		
213	PAR 07	LUDLAM	Research into Heatwave Deaths	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Do you think that the Australian government can provide any remedy to that proposed doubling or quadrupling of heatwave deaths with the provision and delivery of Commonwealth infrastructure spending, which is what your job is.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I am not familiar with that research.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> You published it.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> No—</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> It is your research.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> No, we published the findings of some work in relation to the state of Australian cities. I do not think we undertook that research.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> It has the Commonwealth government crest on the cover of the report.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> The <i>State of Australian cities</i> report contains a range of urban issues research. I do not think we undertook that research. I will take that on notice, but I do not think we undertook the actual research.</p>	112 18/11/2013	
214	PAR 08	LUDLAM	Debate: Roads are Good for Mental Health	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Senator Sinodinos, are you aware of that particular contribution to the debate: roads are good for mental health?</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> This was while Mr Abbott was opposition leader?</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Yes, that is right.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> I cannot recall. Are you sure it was not something in <i>Battlelines</i> or something like that?</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> No, it is very recent. It is within the last few months.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> What was the context?</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> I am trying to establish whether or not it is official government policy that roads are part of your mental health platform.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> We will find where the quote came from.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> All right. Could you provide me with an expression of whether that is policy now.</p> <p><b>Senator Sinodinos:</b> It is an ongoing debate.</p>	113 18/11/2013	
215	PAR 09	McLUCAS	Office of Northern Australia Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many staff were employed in the Office of Northern Australia as at 1 July 2013?</li> <li>2. I understand there are 12 people currently (as at November 2013) employed in the Office of Northern Australia. Where are they located (name the city/town) and how many are each location?</li> <li>3. What work is happening in terms of planning for increases or decreases in staff numbers and/or the location of staff?</li> </ol>	Written	

216	PAR 10	STERLE	Urban Policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who administers the National Urban Policy?</li> <li>2. What is the status of the Urban Policy Forum?</li> <li>3. When did it last meet, and when is the next meeting scheduled?</li> <li>4. What current work centred on urban policy is underway within the Department?</li> <li>5. What is the status of the Major Cities Unit? Where are its former staff?</li> <li>6. Has the new Government expressed a view about the status or priority of urban or cities policy within the Department?</li> </ol>	Written	
217	STP 01	GALLACHER	Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> The other issue is the freight package to Tasmania. On the public record Labor committed \$40 million to the Bass Strait freight package, a fifty-fifty split between state and federal governments. What is the current status of those commitments?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> As far as I am aware that has not been committed to by the government.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> It has not been committed to at all?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> Not that I am aware of. The government has put in place a range of measures, including a review of Tasmania's freight and shipping costs by the Productivity Commission; however, I am not aware of any commitment to that program.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Was there a recommendation from the freight logistics coordination team?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> There was advice provided to the former government of that coordination, but I am not aware that that has been provided the current government.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> The \$25 million that Labor set aside to be made available before Christmas is in jeopardy or will not be honoured?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak:</b> I will take that on notice, but I am not aware that that is part of the government's economic growth plan for Tasmania, which includes a whole range of other industry assistance measures.</p>	96 18/11/2013	
218	OTS 01	MACDONALD	Horn Island Airport	<p>Question on Notice 77 from Budget Estimates in May 2013 asked the Department to clarify how much of a \$4.9 million regional infrastructure grant program had been spent, the status of the capital works being funded by the grant, and specifically about the status of upgrades to the taxiway and expanded apron at Horn Island airport which was the recipient of a \$460,000 portion of the grant monies.</p> <p>In answer to Question on Notice 77 from Budget Estimates in May the Department indicated that all of the \$4.9 million has been spent, all of the</p>	Written	

				<p>works have been completed, and that taxiway and apron upgrades at Horn Island airport did not form part of the funding matrix under which the \$460,000 was conferred (see attached media release that confirms the \$460,000 was to assist with security screening upgrades).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Did the previous Government instruct the Department to make any assessment of the current condition, and/or feasibility of remediation, of the taxiway and aprons at Horn Island Airport?</li></ol>		
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