

Question on Notice

No. 1366

Asked on Thursday, 26 October 2023

MS A LEAHY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Lake Eyre Basin Consultation process and the Lake Eyre Basin Traditional Owner Alliance—

Will the Minister advise (reported separately) (a) the names of the organisations and groups on the Alliance, (b) any costs to government involved with sitting fees and costs associated with the regulatory impact statement?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

- (a) The Queensland Lake Eyre Basin Traditional Owner Alliance is constituted by representatives from 16 Traditional Owner groups including Alywarra, Boonthamurra, Dieri, Indjalandji-Dhidhanu, Iningai, Koa, Kullilli, Maiawali, Mitakoodi, Mithaka, Pitta Pitta, Waluwarrar, Wangkamadla, Wangkangurru/Yarluyandi, Wangkumarra and Yirrnendali.
- (b) The three Traditional Owners Alliance representatives who sat on the Lake Eyre Basin Stakeholder Advisory Group were paid for their time and travel expenses (they were not employees of the Alliance, and not being otherwise remunerated for their time or expertise). Sitting fees for the three Traditional Owners Alliance representatives totalled \$9,326.90 across five meetings. Other expenses associated with the Stakeholder Advisory Group (including travel, transport, meals and accommodation) totalled \$55,103.66 across four of those meetings to support face to face participation as well as a Ballera Gas Centre site visit. This is consistent with the Department of Environment and Science's policies on sitting fees for First Nations representatives.

In addition, for the Longreach Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting in May 2022, two other members – one an employee of the Queensland Resources Council and one a volunteer representative from Lock the Gate Alliance – were reimbursed for travel and related expenses totalling \$3,204.46.

Most of the other Stakeholder Advisory Group members were based in Brisbane and were employees of the organisation they were representing. Sitting fees were not paid to other Stakeholder Advisory Group members, and in most cases no other travel or related expenses were paid.

Other costs associated with the department producing the Regulatory Impact Statement were part of general departmental operations. This formed part of the administrative responsibility for the department and no payments were made for participation.

The quoted figures are GST exclusive.