

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, EXPENDITURE ON POSTAGE, AUDITING

2578. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Midwest, Wheatbelt and Great Southern

For each Department and agency under the control of the Minister, including the Ministerial office -

- (a) what was the monthly expenditure on postage for each of the financial years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and for each month, to date, of the current financial year;
- (b) what was the value of stamps purchased;
- (c) what was the value of 'franked' items posted; and
- (d) when was the last time that postage expenditure was audited?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

Ministerial Office

Please refer to the response provided by the Premier to Question On Notice 2567 of 2 March 2004.

Department of Agriculture

- (a) 2001/02 - July; \$23,779.93, Aug; \$64,022.05, Sept; \$24,502.74, Oct; \$21,714.50, Nov; \$29,331.30, Dec; \$48,895.25, Jan; \$22,665.42, Feb; \$13,767.25, Mar; \$19,233.23, Apr; \$24,198.36, May; \$33,673.92, Jun \$24,653.33.
2002/03 - July; \$21,444.29, Aug; \$19,519.13, Sept; \$13,904.23, Oct; \$63,728.30, Nov; \$20,748.09, Dec; \$17,245.08, Jan; \$18,288.58, Feb; \$16,557.21, Mar; \$11,692.04, Apr; \$26,236.20, May; \$14,551.02, Jun; \$18,402.49.
2003/04 Year figures to 17/3/04 - Jul; \$58,477.47, Aug; \$18,127.36, Sept; \$24,063.76, Oct; \$25,021.24, Nov; \$24,496.52, Dec; \$19,870.04, Jan; \$18,724.93, Feb; \$10,833.02, Mar; \$8,078.89.
- (b) \$23.21, including Agriculture Protection Board and Rural Business Development Corporation.
- (c) Total \$820,424.16.
- (d) Financial statements, including expenditure on postage, are audited annually.

Agriculture Protection Board

- (a) 2001/02 - July; \$351.17, Aug; \$2,279.55, Sept; \$928.23, Oct; \$87.36, Nov; \$110.21, Dec; \$114.03, Jan; \$130.09, Feb; \$167.83, Mar; \$6.50, Apr; \$68.24, May; \$19.91, Jun; \$7.53.
2002/03 - Jul; \$7.81, Aug; \$124.92, Sept; \$58.54, Oct; \$7,293.25, Nov; \$239.27, Dec; \$562.16, Jan; \$15.75, Feb; \$102.05, Mar; \$42.33, Apr; \$51.38, May; \$37.19, Jun; \$157.02.
2003/04 Year figures to 17/3/04 - Jul; \$152.23, Aug; \$25.00, Sept; \$110.05, Oct; \$7.27, Nov; \$13,410.86, Dec; \$59.36, Jan; \$165.16, Feb; \$41.58, Mar; \$1,565.62.
- (b) Included in Department of Agriculture.
- (c) \$28,476.24.
- (d) Financial statements, including expenditure on postage, are audited annually.

Rural Development Business Development Corporation

- (a) 2001/02 - Jul; \$377.66, Aug; \$1,238.78, Sept; \$364.94, Oct; \$684.63, Nov; \$629.00, Dec; \$99.34, Jan; \$190.33, Feb; \$55.08, Mar; \$176.88, Apr; \$7.44, May; \$26.01, Jun; \$8.18.
2002/03 - Jul; \$53.18, Aug; \$46.99, Sept; Nil, Oct; \$11.93, Nov; \$49.83, Dec; \$38.93, Jan; \$6.44, Feb; \$9.04, Mar; \$19.88, Apr; \$36.32, May; \$192.09, Jun; \$114.91.
2003/04 Year figures to 17/3/04 - Jul; \$25.41, Aug; \$91.85, Sept; \$65.00, Oct; \$4.54, Nov; \$125.73, Dec; \$20.82, Jan; \$10.82, Feb; \$10.10, Mar; \$308.68.
- (b) Included in Department of Agriculture.
- (c) \$5,077.55.
- (d) Financial statements, including expenditure on postage, are audited annually.

Agriculture Produce Commission

- (a) 2001/02 - Jul; \$18.56, Aug; \$10.82, Sept; Nil, Oct; Nil, Nov; \$10.85, Dec; \$248.94, Jan; 87.51, Feb; \$96.04, Mar; \$50.68, Apr; \$10.84, May; \$33.67, Jun; \$96.22.
2002/03 - Jul; Nil, Aug; Nil, Sept; Nil, Oct; \$51.95, Nov; \$406.65, Dec; Nil, Jan; Nil, Feb; Nil, Mar; Nil, Apr; Nil, May; \$578.61, Jun; \$1,749.84.
2003/04 Year figures to 17/3/04 - Jul; Nil, Aug; \$11.05, Sept; Nil, Oct; \$1,072.34, Nov; \$90.00, Dec; \$43.49, Jan; \$5.86, Feb; Nil, Mar; Nil.
- (b) Included in Department of Agriculture.
- (c) \$4,673.92.
- (d) Financial statements, including expenditure on postage, are audited annually.

Department of Fisheries

- (a) See attached schedule of expenses. [See paper No 2409.]
- (b) Information is not readily available.
- (c) No 'franked' items posted
- (d) No specific audit on postage has been undertaken. However, the Department carries out annual audits on accounts payable, which would incorporate postage expenditure incurred even though it may not directly target that area.

Forest Products Commission

- (a) The Forest Products Commission (FPC) does not collate financial data on a monthly basis for postage expenditure. However, the FPC is able to provide monthly expenditure on mail and courier costs including Australia Post and Mailwest for the financial years of 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Jul	\$3,247.55	\$4,135.84	\$2,193.11
Aug	\$3,252.35	\$2,422.85	\$2,657.69
Sep	\$7,277.29	\$4,729.32	\$2,900.66
Oct	\$2,453.72	\$1,880.13	\$2,366.59
Nov	\$3,857.80	\$1,929.67	\$2,451.82
Dec	\$2,407.18	\$1,927.00	\$2,697.59
Jan	\$1,354.41	\$2,846.43	\$1,675.87
Feb	\$2,466.54	\$2,453.92	\$2,949.78
Mar	\$1,594.11	\$2,924.67	\$3,208.80
Apr	\$1,568.38	\$2,194.88	\$2,777.87
May	\$2,907.29	\$2,045.49	
June	\$3,210.94	\$6,010.25	
Total	\$35,597.56	\$35,500.45	\$25,879.78

- (b)-(c) The value of stamps purchased and franking is included in (a) and separate costing is not available.
- (d) Individual invoices for postage expenditure received by the FPC are incurred and certified in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985. Like all other costs postal charges are subject to both internal and external audit.

Mid West Development Commission

- (a) Schedule for 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 tabled herewith. [See paper No 2409.]
- (b) \$4.55 in February 2004
- (c) Nil
- (d) Postage expenditure has not been the target of a specific audit. However, as part of overall expenditure it is potentially reviewed during either the Commission's annual external or internal audits.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (a) 2001/02 – July \$135.00, August \$622.99, September \$414.29, October \$194.56, November \$172.73, December \$341.73, January \$265.22, February \$115.05, March \$324.79, April \$264.09, May \$203.91, June \$805.23
2002/03 - July \$141.81, August \$364.31, September \$866.14, October \$193.08, November \$289.14, December \$659.71, January \$430.80, February \$201.61, March \$375.19, April \$347.35, May \$853.92, June \$1,431.88
2003/04 – July Nil, August \$187.08, September \$569.64, October \$742.22, November \$306.94, December \$205.12, January \$184.69, February \$199.80, March \$194.68
- (b) 2001/02 Nil, 2002/03 Nil, 2003/04 Nil
- (c) 2001/02 Nil, 2002/03 Nil, 2003/04 Nil
- (d) Postage expenditure audited after receipt of each Australia Post invoice

Great Southern Development Commission

- (a) Schedules for 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 tabled herewith. [See paper No 2409.]
- (b) Nil
- (c) 2001/02 - \$5,362.38, 2002/03 \$5,783.81, 2003/04 \$3,440.57
- (d) Postage expenditure audited after receipt of each Australia Post invoice.