

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE
(Of which some notice has been given)

Thursday, 17 May 2012

Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Energy.

I refer to the Minister's answer to QON 7528 in the other place and the confirmation in that answer, that Western Power paid \$500,446 in Fringe Benefits Tax in 2010-11 for entertainment, and I ask:

1. Can the Minister confirm:
 - a. That this tax payment was in respect of \$521,251 in entertainment expenses; and
 - b. If no to (1) (a), what was the exact amount paid in entertainment expenses?
2. Will the Minister detail each of the entertainment items that comprised this amount of money and if not why not?

Answer

(1)(a) Yes

(b) Not applicable.

(2) The expenditure of \$521,251 can be broken down into two categories, as follows:

Meals and venue hire:	\$372, 624
Recreation:	\$148,627

It should be noted that discretionary expenditure at Western Power has reduced from \$10.9 million in 2008/2009 to \$8.8 million in the current financial year, a reduction of 18.8%.

One should consider Western Power's expenditure on entertainment in the context of overall operating expenditure of almost \$1.2 billion and across a corporation of more than 3,329 employees. In other words, \$521,251 represents about 0.04% of overall expenditure at Western Power.



Minister for Energy