

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 268
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Program: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Meeting with CEO Queensland Resources Council CEO – Ian Macfarlane
Hansard Page: 10
Question Date: 17 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters, Larissa asked:

Senator WATERS: I am interested in whether the minister or anyone from the department has met with former minister Ian Macfarlane in his new capacity as the Queensland Resources Council CEO.

Senator Birmingham: I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware of Minister Frydenberg's meetings.

Senator WATERS: Have any of the departmental staff met with former minister Ian Macfarlane?

Dr de Brouwer: Not that I am aware of.

Senator WATERS: Could you take that on notice as well.

Dr de Brouwer: Yes. I think the answer is no, but I will come back and confirm if it is not.

Senator WATERS: Thank you. The same question, around when the minister was Mr Hunt: are you aware whether there were any meetings between Minister Hunt and the then head of the QRC? I think it was Michael Roche at the time.

Dr de Brouwer: We do not have access to the minister's diary notes.

Senator Birmingham: We can take that on notice and see if there is any information that can be provided in that regard.

Senator WATERS: Thank you—and, likewise, if the department can check whether any of the departmental staff met with Mr Roche or accompanied the minister on any of the meetings that may or may not have happened at that level.

Dr de Brouwer: What normally happens in Queensland, especially around the reef, is that there are very wide-ranging stakeholder meetings. They involve, basically, business from all different businesses as well as community and environmental groups. It would be unsurprising if Mr Roche or the Queensland Resources Council were involved in those meetings, because that is a normal part of consultation. It is very broadly based across all of the interests in Queensland.

Senator WATERS: I, too, would find it unusual if they had not met, but I am keen to check the record. Are you aware whether there have been any either ministerial or departmental meetings with the head of APIA, who, of course, is former resources minister Martin Ferguson?

Senator Birmingham: Mr Ferguson may be the chair of APIA. Again, I would have thought the same answers can hold—we can take it on notice in terms of checking, but I would have thought it fairly normal practice that APIA, whether at the chair or the chief executive level, would have engaged in some form of consultations with Mr Frydenberg, Minister Hunt or the department at some stage over recent years.

Senator WATERS: If you could get me some dates on which those meetings would have occurred that would be very helpful.

Senator Birmingham: We will do what is possible.

Answer:

A response from the Minister for the Environment and Energy was tabled in session and can be found on page 115 of Hansard.

- a) Have any officers from your division met with former minister Ian Macfarlane in his new capacity as the Queensland Resources Council CEO?

| Division | Yes / No | Meeting Details |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| Australian Antarctic Division | No | n/a |
| Biodiversity Conservation Division | No | n/a |
| Commonwealth Environmental Water Office | No | n/a |
| Corporate Strategies Division | No | n/a |
| Domestic Emissions Reduction Division | No | n/a |
| Energy Division | No | n/a |
| Energy Security Office | No | n/a |
| Environment Standards Division | No | n/a |
| International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division | No | n/a |
| General Counsel Division | No | n/a |
| Parks Australia Division | No | n/a |
| Policy Analysis and Implementation Division | No | n/a |
| Science Division | No | n/a |
| Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division | No | n/a |

- b) If the department can check whether any of the departmental staff met with Mr Roche or accompanied the minister on any of the meetings that may or may not have happened at that level.

| Division | Yes / No | Meeting Details |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Australian Antarctic Division | No | n/a |
| Biodiversity Conservation Division | Yes | Michael Roche in his capacity as Chief Executive Officer of QRC, attended the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee meetings in August 2015 and in June and August of 2016. |
| Commonwealth Environmental Water Office | No | n/a |
| Corporate Strategies Division | No | n/a |
| Domestic Emissions Reduction Division | No | n/a |
| Energy Division | No | n/a |
| Energy Security Office | No | n/a |
| Environment Standards Division | No | n/a |
| International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division | No | n/a |
| General Counsel Division | No | n/a |
| Parks Australia Division | No | n/a |
| Policy Analysis and Implementation Division | No | n/a |
| Science Division | No | n/a |
| Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division | No | n/a |

c) Are you aware whether there have been any either ministerial or departmental meetings with the head of APIA, who, of course, is former resources minister Martin Ferguson?

| Division | Yes / No | Meeting Details |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| Australian Antarctic Division | No | n/a |
| Biodiversity Conservation Division | No | n/a |
| Commonwealth Environmental Water Office | No | n/a |
| Corporate Strategies Division | No | n/a |
| Domestic Emissions Reduction Division | No | n/a |
| Energy Division | No | n/a |
| Energy Security Office | No | n/a |
| Environment Standards Division | No | n/a |
| International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division | No | n/a |
| General Counsel Division | No | n/a |
| Parks Australia Division | No | n/a |
| Policy Analysis and Implementation Division | No | n/a |
| Science Division | No | n/a |
| Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division | No | n/a |