

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: International Policy and Engagement Division

Question No: 273

Topic: US Administration

Reference: Hansard page 93 (01 March 2017)

Senator: Rice, Janet

Question:

Senator RICE: But did he get any prior briefing from either the department or from you, Minister?

Senator Cormann: Not from me personally, no, but you would not expect me personally to provide a briefing

in relation to this. It is not in my area. What I would say is that of course our ambassador to the United States has

got very good firsthand knowledge of the operation of the asset recycling fund and initiative as a former

distinguished Treasurer of the Commonwealth.

Senator RICE: But do you have any understanding of what the nature of that advice was?

Senator Cormann: The nature of which?

Senator RICE: Of the advice that Mr Hockey was giving to the Trump administration?

Senator Cormann: I have just heard you refer to it. It is the first I have heard of it myself. I am happy to take

it on notice, to see whether the Treasurer wants to add to what I have said so far.

Answer:

The Department of the Treasury did not provide advice to the Australian Ambassador to the United States on the Asset Recycling Initiative.