

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Question: PM9

Topic: National Relief and Recovery Arrangements

Asked By: Senator Coonan

Type of Question: 92 (21/02/2011)

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Number of pages: 1

Senator COONAN - ... What states are in prospect to qualify for Commonwealth disaster relief for state expenditure to restore or repair essential public assets in relation to the recent natural disasters?

Ms Cross - The Commonwealth assistance is normally activated by a request from a state or territory government, which is then?

Senator COONAN - Which states and territories have made requests?

Ms Cross - That is then assessed to see whether it meets the criteria for assistance. Certainly, there have been events in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia - from memory, in South Australia as well over this recent period, but in different years there are different requests and there may have been some from Victoria as well. I would have to go and check, but it has been fairly widespread this year.

Answer:

The Attorney-General's Department advises that to date, Queensland, Victoria and the Northern Territory have indicated that they will meet the threshold requirement to be eligible for Commonwealth assistance for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) for this financial year. Other states may also be eligible based on their recovery costs meeting the relevant threshold under the NDRRA.