

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Firefighting foams investigation group

Senator: Rhiannon, Lee

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

- 1) Is there a group within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet that is investigating contamination arising from firefighting foams (PFOS and PFOA)?
- 2) If there is such a group:
 - a. What is its name, how is it constituted and how many staff does it have?
 - b. When will this group report on its investigations?

Answer:

- 1) A taskforce has been established in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) to oversee and coordinate the whole of government response to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination at Commonwealth owned sites and affected communities. The taskforce is not investigating PFAS contamination.
- 2)
 - a. The PFAS Taskforce was established in December 2016. The Taskforce comprises of 18 staff from PM&C and other Commonwealth departments, including the Departments of Defence, Health, Agriculture and Water Resources, Environment and Energy, Infrastructure and Regional Development and the Attorney-General's Department.
 - b. Refer part 1) above for the role of the Taskforce.