

**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:** Cities

**Senator:** McAllister, Jenny

**Question reference number:** 72

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 27 February 2017, pages 126 & 127

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

- 1) Senator McALLISTER: I am asking who made the decision to terminate the State of Australian Cities report, and when was the decision made?  
Ms Wiley-Smith: I would have to take that on notice.  
Senator McALLISTER: Was it the minister?  
Ms Wiley-Smith: It happened before my time, so I would have to take that on notice.  
Senator McALLISTER: Dr Kennedy?  
Dr Kennedy: I would presume it was Assistant Minister Taylor, but we will confirm that for you.  
Ms Wiley-Smith: Just to confirm again, the information that was in the cities report will still be available. It is just going to be in a different format.
  
- 2) Senator McALLISTER: Can I ask about the Smart Cities summit that was held in April last year? Were the stakeholders at that summit asked to provide an evaluation of the summit?  
Dr Kennedy: I did attend the summit. It was not long after I started. I cannot recall if they were asked. I will have to take that on notice.  
Senator McALLISTER: Is the department's overall view of the summit that it was a success?  
Dr Kennedy: Yes. I attended the summit. I attended some of the workshops. I found it a valuable exercise. I am not aware of us undertaking a formal evaluation by going back to stakeholders, but that is what I will take on notice and see if such a process was undertaken.  
Senator McALLISTER: I would also be interested in the outcomes of that evaluation, and what stakeholders said about the value of the summit. Are there going to be any other summits? Is anything planned?

**Answer:**

- 1) Information contained in the State of Australian Cities Report will continue to be available in a different format. As announced by the Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, the Hon Angus Taylor MP, on 7 December 2016, the Commonwealth Government is updating the cities reporting format, with a more user friendly online dashboard system—the National Cities Performance Framework. This will allow all Australians to easily access information and data related to their city.

All data series previously published in State of Australian Cities reports will continue to be available in the annual Progress in Australian Regions Yearbook, produced by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The most recent Yearbook was released in December 2016.

- 2) No formal evaluation was undertaken.