

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Minister for Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.3

Topic: Australian Rail Track Corporation – discussions about leases with the Deputy Prime Minister

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: F47

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Pages 42-43, 28 May 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: Have there been discussions with the board of the ARTC about a potential future sale and the timing of it?

Senator Cormann: Obviously the Deputy Prime Minister and I are the joint shareholder ministers for the ARTC. This, as you have indicated, has been a matter for public discussion for some time. It was something that we looked at and decided not to proceed with in last year's budget, at that time. We decided this year to proceed with it. The day-to-day relationship is managed by the Deputy Prime Minister, so I can take on notice whether he has had any specific conversations prior to this issue being finalised. Personally, I have not had any conversations with the management of the board in the lead-up to this year's budget.

...

Senator GALLAGHER: If you could confirm about the Deputy Prime Minister, that would be useful.

Answer:

No formal discussion has been held with the Board and no decision has been taken to privatise the ARTC. Prior to the Budget, notification of the scoping study announcement was given to the CEO, a member of the Board.