

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Proposed iron ore enquiry

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 26

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator WONG: I asked the date on which advice was provided to the Prime Minister in relation to a proposed iron ore inquiry.

Dr Gruen: I would have to take the date on notice.

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Senator WONG: Which department prepared the advice?

Dr Gruen: I am not certain because I was involved only to the extent of having visibility of the advice. I do not know where it came from.

Senator WONG: Okay. Can we find that out too, on notice?

Dr Gruen: We can certainly take it on notice.

Senator WONG: Advice came in from another department which PM&C then assessed and provided a brief? What was the process?

Ms Cross: We will check that for you.

Senator WONG: And that is not unusual.

Dr Gruen: We are happy to check the details.

Senator WONG: If you could. On 15 May 2015 the Prime Minister stated on the Alan Jones show, "I think we do need an inquiry" into iron ore pricing. You might need to take this on notice. Did the Prime Minister seek any advice from his department before making this statement?

Dr Gruen: Again, we should take that on notice

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Senator WONG: This will probably have to be taken on notice as well. Did the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have any discussions with Treasury, the Department of industry or any other department—and, if so, which—about the inquiry proposal?

Ms Cross: We will take that on notice

...

Mr Gruen: We will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

On 14 May 2015 the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided advice to the Prime Minister's Office in relation to a proposed iron ore inquiry. PM&C discussed the proposed inquiry with Treasury.