

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
5 May 2016

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Voting services on Barrow Island

Senator: Lines

Question reference number: F24

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Date set by the Senate for the return of answer: Wednesday, 14 September 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LINES: ... They do it very well, every day of the week. The whole structure on Barrow Island has been through quarantine—massive steels, machinery and trucks and everything—so I do not really get why we cannot take flat-packed cardboard boxes and paper ballots onto the island. That is the piece I am really struggling with.

Mr Rogers: I am happy to take that on notice and talk to Ms Nielson to find out where we are with that. I think when you last wrote—and I will correct my evidence here if I am incorrect—we contacted Chevron again to ensure that that was the answer, that we could not get access to the island.

Answer:

In the lead up to the 2016 Federal election the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) accepted the advice of Chevron as the licence holder for Barrow Island that it was not possible for the company to allow the AEC to establish in-person voting facilities on the Island. The AEC was not provided with specific knowledge of the licence restrictions and as such the specific issues behind Chevron's advice are a matter for the company and not the AEC.