

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18**

Finance Portfolio  
24-25 May 2017

**Department/Agency:** Finance  
**Outcome/Program:** 1/1.1  
**Topic:** Snowy Hydro

**Senator:** Gallagher  
**Question reference number:** F42  
**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, 25 May 2017, F&PA Committee, page 17  
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 7 July 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator GALLAGHER:** ...What is the role for Finance? When did you become aware of the expansion? How did you become aware of the government's plans to expand the Snowy Hydro?

**Senator Cormann:** This has just been part of the normal budget process. This was obviously one of the proposals that were considered by the government through the budget process. Finance provided the usual advice in the context of the budget process.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** I think PM&C in estimates confirmed that they became aware on 7 March.

**Senator Cormann:** We will have to take on notice specific dates. This has gone through the normal cabinet process. There were aspects of it that were considered by the energy subcommittee of the cabinet. Ultimately things were considered by the Expenditure Review and the cabinet as appropriate. But, in terms of specific dates, I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of Finance first became aware of the proposal to expand pumped-hydro energy storage in the Snowy Mountains on 7 March 2017.