

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

Finance Portfolio
20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Date for electoral redistribution of New South Wales

Senator: Dastyari

Question reference number: F18

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: ... The bit that I suppose I wanted to ask you about was: you were initially going to come down with the draft boundaries at an earlier day. On the Monday of that week you indicated that not only was it not going to be ready that Friday but that it was not going to be ready for another month, which makes me wonder if you perhaps knew earlier than that Monday that you were not going to have them ready by that Friday. So I was going to ask you: what happened?

Mr Rogers: ... The day that we updated the website with an indicative date was, I think, the day we made the decision, but I can confirm that for you.

Senator DASTYARI: My understanding is that the indicative date was there on the Monday of that week. You may refer to it as an indicative date, but when it is the Monday of a week and it is meant to come out on the Friday, I think there is an assumption that it is going to come out on the Friday. At what point did you become aware that you were not going to meet that deadline? Surely you were aware before that Monday?

Mr Rogers: I will have to take that on notice, if you are after a precise date.

...

Senator DASTYARI: Regarding that gazettal date, is it an election date after that date, or is it if writs are issued before that date?

Mr Rogers: It is the latter. It is if writs are issued.

Senator DASTYARI: What is the gazettal date?

Mr Rogers: I do have that. I think it is in February, but I will find an exact date and come back to you.

Answer:

1. The indicative timetable for the New South Wales redistribution, published on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website, was altered on Friday 11 September 2015 to indicate the proposed redistribution report would be released in October 2015. The indicative timetable was subsequently updated on Friday 2 October 2015 to indicate the proposed redistribution report would be released on 16 October 2015.

2. The names and boundaries of electoral divisions are scheduled to be published in the *Gazette* on 25 February 2016. Were the writs for a general election to be issued after 25 February 2016, the election would be contested on the boundaries of electoral divisions published in the *Gazette* on 25 February 2016. Were the writs for a general election to be issued on or before 25 February 2016, a mini-redistribution of New South Wales would be required to be conducted. If the mini-redistribution was conducted, the boundaries and names of electoral divisions would apply until the next redistribution of the state is determined.