

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Climate Change Briefings

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 2012, Page 19)

QUESTION No. AI-13

Senator MASON: Good morning. Professor. Since becoming Chief Scientist, have you provided any advice, whether written or oral, to the Prime Minister or to her department on the specific issue of the science surrounding climate change?

Prof. Chubb: Probably.

Senator MASON: Would that be written or oral?

Prof. Chubb: What I have said and probably written is to point out where the weight of the evidence lies at the moment, or at the time I talked about it. It has basically been a summary of the position adopted by a broad range of people rather than an interpretation of the detail.

Senator MASON: Was that written or oral advice?

Prof. Chubb: I can find out, I guess. I could not tell you right now. It has probably been both.

Senator MASON: Perhaps you could find out the date for that advice.

Prof. Chubb: Sure.

Senator MASON: I do not need a copy of that advice; just when you gave it, and whether it was written or oral.

Prof. Chubb: Yes, okay.

Senator MASON: Thanks.

Prof. Chubb: On the oral issue, I should say that I have had lots of conversations with a lot of people about a lot of things.

Senator MASON: I accept that. I think the committee—

Prof. Chubb: Somewhere in amongst all that I might have dropped the magic phrase 'climate change', but I would not have made a record of that.

Senator MASON: I appreciate that. But I would appreciate the dates of any written advice and whether there has been any specific oral advice to the Prime Minister or the department. -

ANSWER

The Government relies on a range of information from advisory bodies in relation to the issue of climate change. These include; the Climate Commission, the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Chief Scientist has not received a formal request for a briefing from the Prime Minister or her Department on this topic.

Professor Chubb will take up the statutory role as a member of the Climate Change Authority on 1 July 2012.