

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
TOPIC: INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
REFERENCE: HANSARD 29/05/06, PAGE E26

QUESTION No.BI-17

(Hansard 29/05/06, p.E26)

Senator Campbell asked about:

Can you provide a list of the Inter-Departmental Committees (IDCs) that the Department is currently involved in?

ANSWER

As at 29 May 2006, the Department was involved in the IDCs listed below.

- Energy Technology Assessments Implementation IDC.
 - Devising a mechanism for integrating technology assessments from the Energy White Paper into energy innovation activities, where applicable.
- Secretaries Group on Greenhouse.
 - The IDC considers strategic greenhouse issues, policies and programs, and provides advice to the Government on a whole-of-Government basis.
- Inter-departmental Greenhouse Projections Group.
 - Responsible for preparation of Australia's national greenhouse gas emission projections on an annual basis.
- Climate Change Adaptation IDC.
 - The IDC looks at the issue of climate change adaptation including the Australian Government's National Climate Change Adaptation Programme and the adaptation component of COAG's climate change plan of action.
- Long-term emission modelling IDC.
 - The IDC is developing advice on advanced modelling requirements for future climate change analysis. This includes developing integrated modelling capacity between economic and climate science models.
- International Aviation Emissions IDC.
 - Considers international policy activities and negotiations that address international aviation greenhouse gas emissions.
- Australian International Climate Change Negotiating IDC.
 - Considers Australia's strategic negotiation position in international climate change talks, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.
- COAG Greenhouse IDC.
 - The IDC considers the Australian Government participation and negotiation in the COAG Climate Change Group as part of COAG's climate change plan of action.
- COAG Competition and Regulation Working Group.
 - This is an irregular and ongoing IDC process relating to implementation of COAG's competition reform agenda.
- IDC on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
 - Development of Australia's position on UNCLOS matters including issues relating to deep sea bed mining code, international sea bed authority and other environmental issues.

- IDC on International Narcotics Issues
 - To coordinate efforts and develop policy on international drug abuse matters to ensure that Australia's national and international policy positions are mutually reinforcing and consistent. These matters arise by virtue of Australia's role as a signatory on two international drug treaties; the Single Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances.
- Water Policy Group
 - Discusses the implementation of water reforms and the National Water Initiative.
- Asia Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate
 - IDC relating to information provision across Government on the Partnership
- Cement Industry Action Agenda (CIAA)
 - Discussed the exposure draft of the Cabinet Submission as well as the content, goals, recommendations, government actions and industry commitments of the CIAA report.
- PNG-Australia gas pipeline
 - The purpose of the IDC is to examine developments in the establishment of the PNG-Australia pipeline project.
- Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)
 - To coordinate Australia's administration of barrier controls on the import and export of rough diamonds and also to determine Australia's negotiating position on international deliberations under the KPCS in relation to trade in rough diamonds. The KPCS is an international initiative which seeks to eliminate 'conflict diamonds' from the diamond trade.
- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
 - Developing a whole of government position on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. This Initiative supports improved governance in resource rich developing countries through the publication and verification of company payments and government receipts from oil, gas and minerals.
- Uranium Industry Framework
 - The purpose of the meetings is to ensure that relevant Australian Government agencies are consulted on proposals that are being put forward by the Steering Group established to prepare the Uranium Industry Framework Report.
- Government Facilitation Group
 - Discusses issues associated with the OPAL research reactor.
- Hazardous Waste – Basel Convention
 - This IDC was set up to look at Australia's Basel Convention obligations through the Hazardous Waste Act to review the policy position on contentious decisions, e.g. used lead acid batteries and spent potlinings from aluminium smelters.
- Nuclear Agencies Consultative Committee
 - Informal meeting of agencies with responsibilities relating to nuclear technology.
- APEC 2007 Policy
 - Developing the policy direction for Australia's hosting of APEC in 2007.
- APEC 2007 Steering Committee
 - Developing the logistical arrangements for Australia's hosting of APEC in 2007.
- APEC 2007 Communications Outreach IDC
 - Developing a coordinated approach to communications to public and business for APEC.

- Steering Group – sustainable indigenous communities MOU
 - Steering Group for the joint industry-government MOU to build sustainable indigenous communities by improved economic, social and environmental initiatives in the mining sector.
- Biofuels IDC.
 - Considers the implementation of the Government response to the Biofuels Taskforce report, the monitoring and review of the Prime Minister’s Biofuels Action Plan and other work concerning biofuels.
- IDC on Australian Government (Coal) Infrastructure Report to COAG.
- Coal Mine Worker’s Long Service Leave Fund.
 - The IDC was convened to discuss the proposal for transfer of the administration for the Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave) Fund from a unique Commonwealth regulated scheme to a commercial arrangement managed by the industry.
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).
 - IDC formed to inform other Australian Government departments of work in this area and to ensure a whole-of-government approach is adopted on CCS issues.
- IDCs relating to Oceans Policy.
 - Discussion of oceans policy issues relating to marine protected areas, the Tasman Sea Initiative and Regional Marine Planning.
- IDC examining whether Australia should join, as a third party, the consultations between China and the US, European Union and Canada over changes to China’s automotive tariff for parts, completely knocked down and semi-knocked down vehicles.
- Coordination forum for agencies involved in the regulation of chemicals.
- IDC examining potential Australian participation in Europe’s Galileo global navigation satellite system.
- IDC monitoring developments in commercial satellite remote sensing capabilities.
- IDC on Existing FTAs.
 - Covers the implementation and administration of Australia’s existing FTAs:
 - United States FTA
 - Thailand FTA
 - Singapore FTA
 - Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement.
- IDC on Current FTA Negotiations.
 - Discussion on the progress of Australia’s current FTA negotiations including the development of negotiating mandates.
Negotiations covered:
 - China FTA
 - ASEAN-ANZ FTA
 - Malaysia FTA
 - United Arab Emirates FTA
- FTA Feasibility Studies.
 - Discussion on the progress of Australia’s current joint FTA feasibility studies.
Studies covered:
 - Japan FTA Feasibility Study
 - Mexico Joint Experts Group Study

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 29 May 2006

- IDC on the Doha Trade Round Negotiations.
 - Discussion on the progress of the Doha Trade Round, including Australia's involvement in Non Agricultural Market Access and the General Agreement on Trade in Services negotiations.
- IDC considering Australia's contribution to a Structural Adjustment Program for the Textiles, Clothing and Footwear industry in Fiji.
- Australian Government Space Forum.
 - Shares information on space-related policies, programs and activities of Australian Government Agencies.
- IDC on Existing WTO commitments.
 - Discusses the implementation of Australia's WTO commitments, including participating in WTO trade policy reviews.
- China Policy Group.
 - Brings together officials from departments working on China to provide updates on each Department's current China policy priorities and discuss the broad relationship with China.
- Review of the Export Finance Insurance Corporation (EFIC).
 - The Australian Government has committed to review EFIC in 2006. The primary purpose of the review is to ascertain whether EFIC's operations still fall within the market gap, or whether the private sector has the capacity to provide EFIC's financial products and services.
- IDC on Annual Migration and Humanitarian Programs.
 - Departments discuss DIMA proposals on immigration programs. DITR's interests include existing skill shortages in various industries relevant to this portfolio.
- IDC on Skills Needs.
 - The IDC identifies barriers to skill formation by employers and employees, develops whole-of-government policy perspectives, and recommends directions to support Australia's labour supply needs.
- IDC to consider the Government's response to *Creating Our Future: agriculture and food policy for the next generation*.
- Review of the Gene Technology Act.
 - Originally convened to develop Government input to the independent Review into the operation of Australia's gene technology laws, now developing a response to that review.
- Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources.
 - Provides input to the Access and Benefit Sharing working group under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- National Tourism Investment Strategy IDC
 - Preparing the Government's response to the National Tourism Investment Strategy and the Emerging Markets Strategy reports developed by industry-led consultative groups in 2005-06.
- IDC on the Biological Weapons Convention.
 - Discusses issues relating to compliance with the Convention.
- Trans-Tasman IDC.
 - The IDC was set up to guide the development of a permanent framework for governance and accountability of the Trans-Tasman Therapeutic Products Agency (subsequently named the Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Authority), in anticipation of its potential application to future Trans-Tasman bodies that the Australian and New Zealand Governments may agree to create.

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 29 May 2006

- Passenger Facilitation Taskforce
 - The Taskforce is considering the implications of the projected growth in inbound tourism numbers over the next decade for passenger processing activities.
- National Passenger Processing Committee
 - The Committee advises on policy relating to passenger processing.
- Attorney-General's Department Background Checking Division Consultative Committee
 - Considers the establishment of a background checking division in the Attorney-General's Department.
- IDC for the Review of Administrative Arrangements for Tourist Shopping in Australia
 - The review of tourist shopping arrangements will examine the current and future administrative arrangements for the Tourist Refund Scheme and inwards and outwards duty free shops.
- IDC on Tourism and Heritage
 - To provide the Australian Government with a platform to demonstrate leadership in collaboration on heritage, environment and protected area tourism.
- Quarantine Matters! Campaign and Related Activities
 - The IDC was convened to discuss matters relating to Australian Government advertising campaigns.
- Deputy Secretaries' Influenza Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness IDC
 - Whole-of-government planning and preparedness for a pandemic.
- Health Operational IDC on Avian Influenza
- IDC established to consider a whole of government response to *Rethinking Regulation: Report of the Taskforce on Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Business*
- Commonwealth Food Regulation Officials Group (CFROG)
 - Discusses proposed developments in food policy and reviews papers being put to the Food Regulation Standing Committee of the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council. The purpose of CFROG is to obtain a whole of Australian Government view prior to Food Regulation Standing Committee and Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council meetings.
- Interagency Drought Recovery Committee