

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

18 October 2012

Question: SR67

Topic: Departmental Meetings associated with coal mining

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. Itemise all meetings in the last 18 months between the Department and representatives or lobbyists or agents for the following companies or individuals:

- a) Adani
- b) Mineralogy
- c) GVK
- d) Hancock
- e) Clive Palmer
- f) Gina Rhinehart

At which any of the following matters were discussed:

- proposed coal mines in the Galilee Basin and all related infrastructure and approval processes (ie rail lines, port expansion, shipping, dredging, dumping)
- The Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and associated work (including the voluntary cumulative impact assessment)

2. Identify any notes taken at those meetings by Departmental officials.

3. Identify all briefing materials prepared by the Department prior to the event.

4. Identify any documents tabled or circulated at those meetings.

5. Itemise all events or trips attended by Departmental staff hosted or paid for by the entities/ individuals listed in question 1 above in the last 18 months.

- a) Identify any briefing documents provided to the Minister in relation to those events or trips.
- b) Identify any trips taken by Departmental staff in the last 18 months to India or China to meet with representatives or agents of Adani, GVK or Chinese companies investing in or having expressed interest in investing in coal mines in the Galilee Basin
 - Describe the nature of the meetings, events or activities attended.
 - Identify who attended these meetings or events or activities
 - Indicate the cost of these trips to the Commonwealth
 - Describe all outcomes or agreements arising from these trips

- Identify and table all documents produced as a result of or as part of these trips, including meeting notes

6. With regard to the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment:

- a) Itemise all meetings held with representatives of the coal industry relating to the Strategic Assessment, including participants, dates and location.
- b) Identify any notes taken by departmental staff at those meetings
- c) Identify any documents tabled or circulated at those meetings
- d) Identify any briefing materials provided to the Minister in preparation for or as a result of those meetings
- e) Describe any action points agreed at those meetings

7. Please table copies of all documents:

- a) prepared in response to the various 2012 UNESCO and WH Committee Reports into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and threats associated with coastal port developments
- b) prepared in response to the announcement of a Strategic Assessment for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Answer:

1. In the last 18 months Departmental officials have had a small number of meetings with companies with an interest in the development of coal mines in the Galilee Basin and the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and associated work. Most of these meetings were with Hancock Coal for the purpose of providing information about the company's activities... More specifically:
 - a) A Ministerial visit to India included a dinner on 11 November 2011 hosted by the High Commissioner for a number of companies, including Adani.
 - b) None known.
 - c) The Minister and officials from the Department met with representatives of GVK on 11 November 2011 in New Delhi, India and attended a dinner hosted by the High Commissioner on the same day for a number of companies, including GVK.
 - d) See overarching answer to question 1.
 - e) None known.
 - f) None known.
2. The meetings consisted of discussions on commercially sensitive information to assist with the Department's policy development work and ministerial briefing. Notes were taken to facilitate these activities and are not appropriate for public distribution.
3. No briefing was prepared for the meetings between Departmental officials and the companies with an interest in the development of coal mines in the Galilee Basin and the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and associated work. For the Ministers visit to India, which included the meetings in New Delhi briefings on foreign investment and infrastructure for coal and iron ore were prepared.
4. Nil.

5. Nil.
- 6
 - a) Departmental officials met with representatives of the Australian Coal Association (ACA) regarding general issues of interest to the industry, including the Strategic Assessment, on 14 March and 21 June 2012 at the ACA offices in Canberra.
 - b) The meetings covered a range of issues to facilitate information sharing and effective policy development.
 - c) An Agenda was circulated for the meetings.
 - d) Nil.
 - e) Nil.
- 7 a-b) Briefing prepared for the Minister on this topic was prepared on the basis if it being confidential.