

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 12-13 February 2007

Question: PM 58

Outcome 1, Output 4.1

Topic: Cabinet consideration of expenditure proposals.

Direct on Notice

Senator Wong asked: The proposal for the Prime Minister's \$10billion Murray-Darling basin water was not taken to Cabinet, yet the decision to purchase a private gift for the Queen at the cost of \$250,000 was taken to Cabinet. When is a proposal for expenditure of taxpayer's money is required to go through Cabinet?

Answer: The Prime Minister, as Chairman of Cabinet, determines when proposals are taken to Cabinet.

