

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 94

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Task Group on Emissions Trading

Direct on Notice:

Senator Evans asked:

Question: Did anyone decline to be a member of the Task Group?

Answer: Membership of the Task Group was arranged by the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's Office.

Question: Will the business representatives on the Group be paid? Will they have their travel/accommodation costs met?

Answer: There are seven business representatives on the Task Group on Emissions Trading. None of the business representatives have expressed a wish to be paid for services while on the Task Group. However, travel and accommodation expenses incurred while performing Task Group duties will be reimbursed if requested.

Question: Is there any international travel planned for the Task Group or the Secretariat? If so indicate the countries that will be visited.

Answer: Members of the Task Group and secretariat have undertaken international travel as part of an extensive consultation process. The countries visited to date include the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Belgium, Norway, France and Japan. A member of the Secretariat has also attended the Point Carbon Conference in Denmark.

Question: Has the secretariat prepared background or briefing papers for the Task Group? If so, how many such papers have been prepared and what topics were covered?

Answer: The Secretariat has prepared a number of papers in order to support the Task Group in considering the nature and design of a workable global emissions trading system and additional steps that could be taken in Australia consistent with the goal of establishing such a system.

Question: In terms of the discussion paper released on 7 February 2007, who in Government approved it prior to its release?

Answer: The Issues Paper was approved by the Task Group prior to its release.

Question: Was the Prime Minister or his Office shown a draft of this paper? If so, when? Were changes made to the paper after it was shown to the PM or PMO?

Answer: A copy of the Issues Paper was provided to the Prime Minister for information a few hours before it was released on 7 February 2007. Neither the Prime Minister nor the PMO requested any changes to the Issues Paper.