

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 Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008**



Question: PM118

Outcome 1, Output 3

Topic: National Security Division

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Senator Trood asked: Senator TROOD - Perhaps you would be good enough, Mr Lewis, to provide the committee with specific advice whereby in writing you might give the detail of the previous elements of the national security division and the ways in which they have been renamed. Would that be possible?

Mr Lewis - Yes.

Senator TROOD - That would just make it abundantly clear which parts of the old division are surviving and which parts of it are essentially surviving but might have, for example, a different nomenclature—and which are the new functions.

Mr Lewis - We can provide such a thing.

Answer: The former National Security Division of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet comprised four branches as follows:

- Defence and Intelligence;
- Domestic Security;
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Security; and
- National Security Science and Technology (NSST) Unit.

The Office of National Security assumed all the responsibilities of the former National Security Division with some reallocation of functions among the branches. The Defence and Intelligence Branch and the NSST Unit were unchanged. The responsibilities of the former Domestic Security Branch and the CBRN Security Branch, together with some new functions, were allocated to two new branches; the Law Enforcement and Border Protection Branch and Infrastructure and Resources Security Branch.

The new responsibilities assumed by the Office of National Security are policy and advice regarding:

- the potential impact of economic and trade issues, climate change and resource scarcity on national security;
- whole of government efforts to build trust between communities and reduce the likelihood of extremist behaviour;
- international security, stabilisation and capacity building operations in fragile and failed states; and
- identity security, e-security and continuity of government.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

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In addition, the Office of National Security provides support to the Homeland and Border Security Review.

