

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**  
**Department of Climate Change**  
**Additional Budget Estimates Hearing–February 2009**

**Written question reference:** CC18 (a)-(b)

**Outcome/Output:** Response to climate change

**Topic:** Emissions Trading Scheme Inquiry

**Hansard Page:** Not relevant for written QoN

**Question:** (Senator Johnston)

In regards to the cancellation of the Government's ETS inquiry

- (a) Why was the inquiry cancelled only a week after it was announced?
- (b) Why did the committee chair change his mind on the timing of when the inquiry would report by?
  - a. Why did he change from "the second half of 2009" to suddenly decide he wanted an interim report by "May 2009"?
- (c) Was Minister Wong consulted by the committee chair, Craig Thomson, before he told Sky News on 19 February that his committee had decided to suddenly bring forward the date for the reporting of the inquiry?
- (d) Who was consulted before the decision was taken?
- (e) Was the department consulted?
- (f) What advice did the department offer in relation to whether the inquiry should proceed or not?
- (g) Did it support the House inquiry?

**Answer:**

- (a) This question does not relate to departmental responsibilities.
- (b) This is a question for the Committee Chair.
- (c) This question does not relate to departmental responsibilities.
- (d) This question does not relate to departmental responsibilities.
- (e) No.
- (f) The Department did not provide advice on this matter.
- (g) House inquiries are a matter for House Committees.