



OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

10 March 2009

Mr Bill Bannear
Research Officer
Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee
SG.60. Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Bannear

Further to the appearance by the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General before the Senate Committee on Finance and Public Administration on Monday 23 February 2009, I write to provide supplementary information as requested during the hearing.

Senator Fifield asked whether the speech drafted for the Governor-General by PM&C had any subsequent input from the Prime Minister's Office or the Office of the Minister for Climate Change after it was received at Government House.

Response: I can confirm that as advised during the hearing, the speech was drafted by PM&C and was checked by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and the Department of Climate Change. The Office is not aware of input into the speech by either the Prime Minister's Office or the Office of the Minister for Climate Change.

Senator Ferguson asked whether it was known if any other heads of state addressed the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi rather than governments or government representatives.

Response: I can confirm that the summit ran over three days under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and over 5,000 delegates. Participants included heads of state, ministers, business leaders, environmentalists and opinion makers from around the world including His Excellency James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles and His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander, Crown Prince of the Netherlands. Previous summit speakers included High Royal Highness The Prince of Wales (by video hologram), His Royal Highness The Duke of York, His Excellency Mr Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland and His Excellency Mr Ismail Omer Guelleh, President of Djibouti.

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Senator Forshaw asked for a list of the activities the Governor-General has undertaken since she was appointed.

Response: In addition the list of activities reflected in Hansard, it should also be noted that the Governor-General has opened the grounds at Government and Admiralty House to around 4,500 school children. In terms of the breadth of her outreach, the Governor-General has also visited Adelaide, Albury, Alexandra, Blighty, Bourke, Brisbane, Broken Hill, Burrumbuttock, Deniliquin, Echuca, Geraldton, Goolwa, Hobart, Ingham, Jervis Bay, Kinglake, Lake Hume, Launceston, Melbourne x 6, Meningie, Mildura, Murray Mouth and Lower Lakes, Shepparton, Sydney x 10, Townsville x 2, Wandong and Whittlesea.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Brady". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Stephen Brady
Official Secretary to the Governor-General