

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Portfolio: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1, Output Group 1

Topic: Governor-General's speech on climate change at 'The World Future Energy Summit' in Abu Dhabi on 22 September 2008.

Senator: Johnston

Question reference number: PM73a-g

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Number of pages: 2

Answer:

The answers to the Honourable Senator's questions are as follows:

a) Was the Governor-General representing the Prime Minister of Minister for Climate Change at The World Future Summit in Abu Dhabi last month?

Answer: The Governor-General was representing Australia.

b) Had the Prime Minister or Climate Change Minister been invited to attend the event?

Answer: The Office is not aware of invitations being made to the Prime Minister or Minister for Climate Change.

c) Did either office request the Governor-General to attend on their behalf?

Answer: No.

d) If so, is this not blurring the boundary between partisan politics and the independence of the office of the Governor-General?

Answer: Not Applicable

e) What assistance did the Minister's or Prime Minister's office provide?

Answer: The Office is not aware of any assistance provided by either Office.

f) Who wrote the speech?

Answer: The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet drafted the speech which was checked by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and the Department of Climate Change.

g) Did the Minister's office assist with the writing or vetting of the speech?

Answer: The Office is not aware of any input into the speech by either the Prime Minister's Office or the Office of the Minister for Climate Change.