

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Topic: Climate Change Science**

**Question reference number: CC13**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA page 132, 8 February 2010**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010**

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**Question:** (Senator Macdonald)

...I refer the committee to a very good article by Cardinal George Pell in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph*. This might have to be on notice, but I ask the department if they could go through Cardinal Pell's argument and, of the factual parts that he raises—not of his argument but of the facts that he says in that argument, which are easily able to be pulled out—tell me which of Cardinal Pell's facts are not correct. I am not asking for the argument but simply the facts that he relates; for example:

We can now chart the history of El Nino for 20,000 years, and these records show La Nina has been absent for a 15-year period at least once.

That is a fact; it is not an argument. What I really want the department to do is to go through and say, 'That is not correct because'—for example—'it was only 15,000 years or it has happened three times.' I just want a critique of the facts in Cardinal Pell's arguments.

**Answer:**

The Bureau of Meteorology has responded to this question. Please refer to question No. 23 taken on notice by the Environment, Heritage and the Arts portfolio in February 2010.