

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Australia Network Tender - Cabinet

Senator: Senator Birmingham

Question reference number: 43

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Please list all cabinet meetings in which the Australia Network tender was discussed since the 2010 election. Please also state if the Foreign Minister was present at each of these meetings.
2. For each cabinet meeting in which the Australia Network was discussed was advice circulated prior to the meeting stating that the Australia Network was an agenda item? Please detail which meetings the Australia Network was discussed without prior advice being sent.
3. How many different cabinet submissions were received regarding the Australia Network tender? At which meetings were submissions presented/discussed? Who wrote each of these submissions?

Answer:

1. Beyond public statements by Cabinet ministers, any further details of the extent to which the Cabinet considered the Australia Network Tender and the nature of those deliberations are confidential to the Cabinet.
Similarly, revealing the details of which ministers were absent for a particular Cabinet meeting would tend to undermine the collective nature of Cabinet decisions.
2. See the response to part 1 above.
3. See the response to part 1 above.