

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2005-2006, 23 and 24 May 2005

Question: PM 37

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Beaudesert Rail

Hansard Page: F&PA 30:

Senator Evans asked: On the advice provided by PM&C to the Prime Minister, was it a request by the Prime Minister for advice? Was it in response to correspondence?

Mr Grech: I do not have that information.

Senator Evans: So we do not know why you provided advice to the Prime Minister on 4 November 2003? And we do not have any record of correspondence around that period that would have caused that advice to be given. Do you know whether the Prime Minister attended a meeting on 4 November or 5 November to discuss Beaudesert?

Mr Grech: No, I do not.

Senator Evans: You do not know. Can you take that on notice for me?

Senator Hill: You want me to ask the Prime Minister whether he attended a meeting on 4 November-

Senator Evans: Or 5 November, regarding Beaudesert Rail.

Senator Hill: I will ask that...

Answer: The advice provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the department) on the 4 November 2003 was in response to a request from the Prime Minister's Office. The department has no record of a meeting attended by the Prime Minister regarding Beaudesert Rail on either 4 or 5 November 2003.