

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 41

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Beaudesert Rail

Hansard Page: F&PA 32:

Senator Evans asked: Can the officer tell me whether DOTARS provided information on Beaudesert Rail to PM&C?

Mr Grech: I would have to check. Again, this is hypothetical. In the normal course of business, we engage with a number of departments across government. It may have happened on this occasion with DOTARS or it may not have. I do not have a specific answer.

Senator Evans: Perhaps you could take on notice for me whether or not DOTARS provided a briefing to PM&C on Beaudesert Rail – whether they provided you with advice about the Beaudesert rail project and on what occasions they provided you with that advice. Certainly, from what is on public record, they seem to have had serious concerns about the viability of Beaudesert Rail. I would like to understand whether or not PM&C was made aware of those concerns.

Mr Metcalfe: We will check that fact.

Senator Carr: Could you also establish whether or not the department was aware that the Department of Transport and Regional Services had recommended against providing additional assistance.

Answer: The Department of Transport and Regional Services provided advice on Beaudesert Rail to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.