

Estimates 2005-06 — Budget Estimates, May 2005

Questions on Notice Index—Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM1	GG	Faulkner	F&PA 78-79 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—How many have been rejected? Mr Hazell—I do not have that figure. Senator FAULKNER—Could you provide that figure on notice, please? Mr Hazell—Certainly. Senator FAULKNER—If you do not have it, it would be best if it were provided on notice. Could you list on notice the organisations that have been rejected also. Mr Hazell—May I just have a look at that aspect of it, because in some cases organisations have asked that that not happen, but I will give you— Senator FAULKNER—Ask that what not happen? Mr Hazell—That any rejection be made public. May I look at that and come back to you? Senator FAULKNER—By all means. I am just trying to understand what is acceptable and what is not. Can you give us a bit more detail about the criteria applied?</p>	Answer received 1/9/05
PM2	GG	Faulkner	F&PA 82 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Let us go through them. Tell us who they were, what they have done and how much they have cost. Mr Hazell—I will have to take that on notice to give you the details of the expenditure for each of those consultants. I do not have that here. Senator FAULKNER—Do you not have an aggregated amount for these consultants? Mr Hazell—I do not have the individual amounts. Senator FAULKNER—So you have got a total, have you? Mr Hazell—No, I have not even got that.</p>	Answer received 1/9/05
PM3	GG	Carr	F&PA 89 23/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—Can I ask—and perhaps you will want to take this on notice—for a similar breakdown of works for Admiralty House as you have just given me for Government House. Mr Studdert—We will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 1/9/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM4	GG	Faulkner	F&PA 91 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—All I am asking is: did the Governor-General pay for it? If he did pay for it, I will not ask the next question. If he did not pay for it and the taxpayers did, I want to know what it was. Mr Hazell—I will take that on notice.	Answer received 1/9/05
PM5	GG	Faulkner	F&PA 91 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—In relation to the office itself, what is the level of staff turnover? Mr Hazell—I do not know with any accuracy what the answer to your question is. I will have to take that on notice.	Answer received 1/9/05
PM6	GG	Faulkner	F&PA 93 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—I apologise: this calendar year—so it is actually three cases in the past five months. How many would have occurred in the previous calendar year—do we know that? Mr Studdert—I do not know that. If you want specifics we can get them on notice. Senator FAULKNER—Thank you.	Answer received 1/9/05
PM7	PM&C	Carr & Evans	F&PA 98-99 23/5/05	Senator CARR—On what date was the decision made? Ms Belcher—I am sorry, I would need to check. It was during April. I do not have the date. Senator CHRIS EVANS—Will you take that on notice for us and find out the date on which that decision was taken? Ms Belcher—Yes.	Answer received 11/7/05
PM8	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 99 23/5/05	Senator CARR—Who in the school approached Dr Shergold? Ms Belcher—Professor Fels. I think Professor Fels initially approached the Public Service Commissioner but I am not certain of that. Senator CARR—On what date did that occur? Ms Belcher—Professor Fels also wrote to the Prime Minister. Senator CARR—On what date did he write to the Prime Minister? Ms Belcher—I am sorry, I am going to have to take that on notice too.	Answer received 11/7/05
PM9	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 99 23/5/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—But certainly the Commonwealth did not consult with the New Zealand government or other stakeholders before taking this decision? Ms Belcher—I do not know of it. I cannot be sure. Senator CHRIS EVANS—Perhaps you could take that on notice if you are not sure.	Answer received 11/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM10	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 102 23/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—This is the best part of a month ago. What has happened about that leak? A cabinet-in-confidence letter from Senator Coonan to Mr Howard appeared on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald. Surely that is a very serious issue, isn't it, Mr Metcalfe?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—I would have to look into the circumstances. I just do not have the information as to what action, if any, has been taken.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—You do not know if any action has been taken?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—I do not know. As I have said, I will have to check.</p>	Answer received 5/7/05
PM11	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 108 23/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—Can we have a copy of the letter?</p> <p>Senator Hill—That is not an unusual thing—most agency heads seek more money than they eventually get.</p> <p>Senator CARR—But, given that the letter has been extensively reported on, can a copy of the letter be tabled?</p> <p>Ms Belcher—I will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/7/05
PM12	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 113 23/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—I want to know when PM&C first became aware of the Cornelia Rau case and whether you were involved at all in providing advice on the establishment of the inquiry into the Cornelia Rau case. I appreciate, Ms Davidson, that you may not personally know but you are here representing the department.</p> <p>When did PM&C know—</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—We will take that on notice, if we can.</p>	Answer received 15/7/05
PM13	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 117 23/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Did PM&C receive an approach from the member for Forde for financial assistance with that project?</p> <p>Mr Grech—I think your reference was to 2003, wasn't it?</p> <p>Senator CARR—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Grech—I will have to take that on notice. I do not have any recollection of that. I was not even with the department at that time. I will go back to the initial point, and that is that there is certainly no discretionary fund, or any such fund, that the Prime Minister administers himself.</p>	Answered F&PA 14-16 24/5/05
PM14	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 117-18 23/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—...My subsequent question is: what approaches were made by the member for Forde to the department or the Prime Minister's office concerning assistance for the Beaudesert railway?</p> <p>Mr Grech—I will take that on notice and get back to the committee.</p>	Answered F&PA 14-16 24/5/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM15	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 119 23/5/05	Senator CARR—Did the Prime Minister offer a loan of \$400,000 to the Beaudesert Rail Association in a letter faxed to the member for Forde from Gladstone on 12 June 2003? Mr Grech—I do not have any recollection of that event. I will take it on notice.	Answer received 11/7/05
PM16	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 119 23/5/05	Senator CARR—Did the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister write to the Deputy Prime Minister advising of a loan offer? Mr Grech—The same answer applies.	Answered F&PA 14-17 24/5/05
PM17	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 119 23/5/05	Senator CARR—These questions go to matters of fact. Did the Prime Minister make an offer by way of a letter faxed to member for Forde on 12 June 2003? Mr Metcalfe—I think the officer is saying that we do not have the detail.	Answer received 11/7/05
PM18	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 120 23/5/05	Senator CARR—I have a series of questions that relate to evidence presented to a Senate committee concerning the Prime Minister's direct involvement in the offering of \$400,000 worth of grants. We have advice by way of correspondence that was sent from Ms Vicki Dickman of DOTARS to a person known as Joanne Dunne, concerning the loan application. It was dated 3 November 2003 and sent at 2.50 pm. It said: The timetable I outlined to you on Friday remains unchanged. We did have a thorough briefing session with the Deputy Prime Minister's office on Friday afternoon. As we anticipated, the Deputy Prime Minister's office is now liaising with the Prime Minister's office and we are expecting a decision late tomorrow. An email sent at three o'clock on that day said: 'I was just wondering if you had heard from the Prime Minister's office. We are waiting to hear from you tomorrow. If you could, let us know whether or not a decision has been made.' My question went to whether or not the Prime Minister had offered this money and if so— Senator HILL—The department cannot answer that question. Senator CARR—Why not? Senator Hill—Because that is not the role of the department. Senator CARR—I will ask a factual question of the Prime Minister. Senator Hill—You can ask the Prime Minister. I would refer that to the Prime Minister. But you cannot ask the official that; you can ask him whether the department provided any advice.	Answer received 15/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM19	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 120 23/5/05	Senator CARR—On what date did you offer advice to the Prime Minister? Mr Grech—I do not have the briefing note with me on when—the day or the time—we provided the advice, but I can assure you that the advice was provided.	Answered F&PA 14-18 24/5/05
PM20	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 120 23/5/05	Senator CARR—Can you indicate what the Prime Minister’s involvement was in lifting the grant offer of \$400,000 to \$600,000—a decision which I understand was made on 4 November 2003? Senator Hill—They cannot answer a question as to what the Prime Minister’s involvement was. Mr Metcalfe—We will take that on notice and, if we can provide any advice, we will.	Answer received 11/7/05
PM21	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 120 23/5/05	Senator CARR—If the decision was not made on 4 November was it in fact 5 November when the decision was made to lift the grant offer? Mr Metcalfe—Same answer, Senator. Senator CARR—You are taking it on notice? Mr Metcalfe—Yes.	Answered F&PA 21 24/5/05
PM22	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 121 23/5/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—Has the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided advice to the Prime Minister concerning the appointment of Mr John Hannaford to the Australian Crime Commission? Mr Metcalfe—I hate to say what I have said earlier, but I have no personal recollection of that. We can check our records to see if we provided any advice and we will check whether we can provide an answer to the committee. Senator CHRIS EVANS—It looks like we are going to have a big Friday the way we are going, but perhaps you could take on notice for me and ask an officer to check whether PM&C was involved in the appointment of Mr Hannaford to the Australian Crime Commission. Mr Metcalfe—I will endeavour to answer that tomorrow.	Answered F&PA 34 24/5/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM23	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 127 23/5/05	<p>Ms Davidson—There are minutes but they are not broadly distributed; they are distributed to the secretaries who attend the meetings.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Are they available to this committee?</p> <p>Ms Davidson—It is just normal practice to provide them only to the secretaries who are the members of that committee, and they are advised that they are not for broader distribution.</p> <p>Senator CARR—What reason would be extended for not providing them to this committee?</p> <p>Ms Davidson—I would have to take that on notice but, as I have said, they are not provided more broadly, even within the bureaucracy, than to secretaries.</p> <p>Senator CARR—That is no reason for me not to ask for them.</p> <p>Ms Davidson—No, but I would want to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Yes; I understood the answer but I wanted to be clear that I will be seeking a detailed explanation as to why they would not be provided to the committee.</p> <p>Ms Davidson—Okay, Senator.</p>	<p>Answer received 16/8/05</p> <p>Additional info received 14/12/05</p>

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM24	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 127 23/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—No doubt they will. I am going around the various departments and I am being told by each of them to go and talk to somebody else, and that is not unusual in this business but it is becoming quite a frustrating process. This new administrative arrangement is supposed to stop that sort of thing happening. Given that you have oversight of the COAG trials, can the department provide me with copies of any evaluation of the COAG trials that have been undertaken?</p> <p>Ms Davidson—Yes.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Thank you. The first bulletin of the secretaries group was published a little while back.</p> <p>Senator Hill—We ran into a problem with COAG materials: we also need the approval of all of the states. But you should be able to get that approval, because that might help us.</p> <p>Senator CARR—We should. But what we can get is the evaluation undertaken by the Commonwealth officers.</p> <p>Senator Hill—But if it was done for COAG I am suggesting that it might be difficult to provide it.</p> <p>Ms Davidson—I think there may have been some evaluations that were Commonwealth-only evaluations.</p> <p>Senator Hill—We might be able to help.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Thank you very much, Senator Hill, for your assistance in this matter.</p>	Answer received 19/7/05
PM25	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 128 23/5/05	<p>Ms Davidson—I recollect that in the budget papers—sorry, I do not have Budget Paper No. 2 in front of me—the finance department split the funding up, so some of it is in other places within the report. I understood there was going to be a footnote that explained that.</p> <p>Senator CARR—I could not find such a footnote. That is my point.</p> <p>Ms Davidson—I recollect this being brought to my attention, but I understood it was going to have an explanation as to why the presentation was different. I am just looking to see if I can find it. I can follow that up for you.</p> <p>Senator CARR—If you would, please.</p>	Answer received 19/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM26	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 129 23/5/05	Senator CARR—I understand that the cabinet implementation unit has been given the task of providing advice on the implementation of Indigenous programs. Is that the case? Ms Davidson—I might have to ask my colleagues from the cabinet implementation unit. Certainly they are monitoring some, but I am not sure it is true to say that they are monitoring all. Ms Croke—I would have to take that one on notice. We can get you that information in the morning. I have not got it available here.	Answer received 12/7/05
PM27	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 129 23/5/05	Senator CARR—What programs is the unit currently reviewing the implementation of? Ms Croke—I would have to take that on notice. I have not got that list with me. I am not sure how much detail we could give on that, but I will take that on notice.	Answer received 12/7/05
PM28	PM&C	Murray	F&PA 4 24/5/05	Senator MURRAY—Was the campaign tendered for by the advertising group, or was it developed in house? Mr Taylor—I am not in a position to answer that, because the early stages of this were done within the area of responsibility of the Tasmanian government—the advertising agency was from Hobart; the printer et cetera were from Tasmania—so I do not have details of that. Senator MURRAY—Perhaps you would just let us know in due course about the way in which the contract was let—whether it was simply a choice by the Tasmanian government, whether it went through a tender process, whether it was in house design or what. Ms Goddard—We can take that on notice.	Answer received 7/7/05
PM29	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 7 24/5/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—When was that held this year? Ms Goddard—I think it was in that late April period but I would have to check the exact date. Senator CHRIS EVANS—If you would not mind, thanks...	Answered F&PA 8 24/5/05
PM30	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 7 24/5/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—So when was the last occasion on which you provided advice on outstanding matters about the budget? Ms Goddard—I would have to check the exact date but it was in the week or so preceding the budget.	Answer received 5/7/05
PM31	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 10 24/5/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—Can you tell me how many decisions were formally signed off on in addition to the cabinet budget measures? Ms Goddard—No, I do not have that information. Senator CHRIS EVANS—Can you take that on notice for me?...	Answer received 5/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM32	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 10 24/5/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—...Can you tell me the date on which the last of them was signed? Ms Goddard—I think you have already asked me that, and I have taken that on notice.	Answer received 5/7/05
PM33	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 12 24/5/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—So the IDC was formed post election. How often did it meet? Ms Goddard—I would have to check exactly, but I think it met a few times before Christmas and it has met a few times this year so far. Senator CHRIS EVANS—Perhaps you could take that on notice for me...	Answer received 5/7/05
PM34	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 19 24/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—Just before we go on, I would like an explanation from Mr Metcalfe. Was Mr Slipper sworn in for this position? How does this work? Mr Metcalfe—To be honest, I am not sure—but I can check, if you like, and give you an answer. Senator FAULKNER—I just wondered how, if Mr Slipper had certain responsibilities in one department—does it work like an acting ministerial arrangement? Mr Metcalfe—That is my understanding, but I can make inquiries this morning and let you know, if you are interested. Senator FAULKNER—How long was he acting in that position? Mr Metcalfe—I will check that as well.	Answer received 11/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM35	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 23-24 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I am. I was asked a question and I am answering it. I am interested in knowing what communications have taken place between the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the PMO. I am drawing a distinction, as you would appreciate, Mr Metcalfe, between the PMO and the correspondence and briefing directly to the Prime Minister that Mr Grech has outlined to the committee. Mr Metcalfe, you are saying that you do not have any details of that at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—Not to hand.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I accept that. Could you take that on notice and provide that detail to the committee at the earliest convenience.</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—Just to clarify exactly what we are taking on notice, it concerns details of any communications between the department and the Prime Minister's office in relation to this matter?</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—In relation to this matter.</p> <p>Senator Hill—It cannot relate to the details of communications; it can relate to whether there were communications. But it would not be surprising if you send a brief to the Prime Minister that his staff might contact, seeking clarification. There is nothing extraordinary in that.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I am not suggesting it is surprising or not. I am not asking for the content of the communications.</p> <p>Senator Hill—You want to know if there were other communications between the department and the PMO?</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—No, I do not. I want to know more than that. I am asking for detail of—</p> <p>Senator Hill—You do not get detail.</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—Taking it on notice does not necessarily mean that we will provide the detail. We will provide an answer.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—But the detail I am requesting is the time, the date and the type of communication that occurred between the department and the PMO. I am not asking for the content of such communications; I am asking for an outline of the administrative actions and other actions that passed. It is quite a straightforward matter.</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—We will take that on notice and endeavour to assist as much as we can.</p>	Answer received 12/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM36	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 26-27 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—The officer has indicated that PM&C provided advice to the Prime Minister around this date in the lead-up to his writing to Ms Elson. I quote the Prime Minister’s letter. He said, ‘Therefore, while I am inclined to support the provision of a \$400,000 Commonwealth loan, this support is conditional on the project obtaining funds of at least \$800,000 from the Queensland state government and/or other sources.’ That is not the full letter but that is the bit I was referring to. I was asking whether or not the officer was aware where that loan would be funded from.</p> <p>Senator Hill—Where the loan would be funded from?</p> <p>Mr Grech—I do not know. This is a hypothetical response because, as I indicated at the outset, the government did not provide a loan. After a lengthy process, considering a lot of issues, the ultimate decision was, in partnership with the Queensland state government and the shire of Beaudesert, to provide a grant to maximise the viability of the project. I think I have made that clear. But to try to answer your question in a hypothetical way, there have been loan arrangements that this and previous governments have entered into, and some of them were sourced from basically consolidated revenue. We have provided loans to PNG. We have provided loans to other countries as part of a development aid package.</p> <p>Senator Hill—Also, if this was a letter from the Prime Minister, it is pretty hard for the official therefore to answer in terms of the Prime Minister’s intention as it goes beyond the content of the letter. If you want to know what the Prime Minister’s intention was in relation to a funding source I think you should ask the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Perhaps you could take it on notice for me, as you have represented the Prime Minister at these hearings, Senator Hill.</p> <p>Senator Hill—I can do that.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—I would like to know what the intended revenue source was when the Prime Minister made the offer of this loan, which obviously was a public offer that Ms Elson conveyed to the Beaudesert Rail organisation. Ms Elson referred to it as the Prime Minister’s ‘discretionary fund’ in minutes of the Beaudesert management committee. We later know that it came out of the Regional Partnerships program funding but as a grant and not a loan. I am trying to ascertain where this offer of a loan from the Prime Minister was to be funded from. If you can take that on notice, I would appreciate that.</p> <p>Senator HILL—Yes.</p>	Answer received 11/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM37	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 30 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—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?</p> <p>Mr Grech—I do not have that information.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS 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?</p> <p>Mr Grech—No, I do not.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—You do not know. Can you take that on notice for me?</p> <p>Senator Hill—You want me to ask the Prime Minister whether he attended a meeting on 4 November—</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Or 5 November, regarding Beaudesert Rail.</p> <p>Senator Hill—I will ask that...</p>	Answer received 11/7/05
PM38	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 31 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Does PM&C have a copy of the guidelines relating to the Regional Partnerships program?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Hill—Can we make an inquiry as to whether PM&C had a copy of the guidelines, Mr Metcalfe?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—We can make those inquiries.</p>	Answer received 11/7/05
PM39	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 31 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Maybe the official would like to table those when he is able to. He can take on notice the tabling of those guidelines. Then we can all have a look and check.</p> <p>Senator Hill—We note that you have asked for them to be tabled. If we can locate a copy in the department, we will consider whether we can table it.</p>	Answer received 11/7/05
PM40	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 32 24/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—Was the financial position of Beaudesert Rail apparent to the department at the time advice was tendered on the application for a grant?</p> <p>Mr Grech—I do not have an answer to that question. I do not know.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Could you take that a notice?</p> <p>Mr Grech—Sure.</p>	Answer received 12/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM41	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 32 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—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.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS 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 the 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. Mr Grech—I am happy to check that for you.</p>	Answer received 12/7/05
PM42	PM&C	Carr	F&PA 32 24/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—Were you aware that the Department of Transport and Regional Services had written to the professional liquidator, raising concerns about the project's viability? Senator Hill—Was the department aware of that fact at the time it was giving advice? That is a legitimate question. Mr Metcalfe—We will check that fact.</p>	Answer received 12/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM43	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 32-33 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Can you also check whether or not the Prime Minister's office or the Prime Minister received any correspondence from Beaudesert Shire Railway Support Group Inc.</p> <p>Senator Hill—I do not know that you can check correspondence with the Prime Minister through a third party.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—I am just looking for completion. We have discussed the correspondence flow between the Deputy Prime Minister and Mrs Elson.</p> <p>Senator Hill—If you want to ask the question, you ask it of the Prime Minister; you do not ask it of the department.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—I am trying to think through the distinction—whether you take it on notice or the department takes it on notice. I suppose I could ask: did the department correspond directly—</p> <p>Senator Hill—A legitimate question might be: 'Did the department give advice to the Prime Minister in relation to any correspondence from this organisation?'</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—The department has given evidence about its other correspondence on this matter. For completion of the correspondence flow, I was just trying to complete the loop by finding out whether there was correspondence between the Prime Minister's office, PM&C or the parliamentary secretary and Beaudesert Shire Railway Support Group Inc.</p> <p>Senator Hill—You can ask the Prime Minister if he received correspondence from a third party. You can ask the department whether it gave advice to the Prime Minister in relation to any correspondence from a third party.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—I will ask both, if it makes you happy. I presume both will be taken on notice.</p> <p>Senator Hill—Okay.</p>	Answer received 15/7/05
PM44	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 34 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—That is why I was asking you what you did know, Mr Metcalfe: that is, whether the Prime Minister had signed off on any other sustentation to the Deputy Prime Minister's program. If you do not know, could you take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Thank you very much.</p>	Answer received 15/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM45	PM&C	Bishop	F&PA 47 24/5/05	<p>Senator MARK BISHOP—Was the letter conveyed to the embassy of Turkey in Australia under cover of a diplomatic note?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—I would have to check that detail with the department of foreign affairs or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. We do not have that information.</p> <p>Mr Kemish—We do not have that information. I do not believe that it was.</p> <p>Senator MARK BISHOP—Could you check that?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—We will check that.</p>	Answered F&PA 70 24/5/05
PM46	PM&C	Bishop	F&PA 48 24/5/05	<p>Senator MARK BISHOP—Weren't there attachments containing information on traffic flows at the Anzac Cove road as well as satellite imagery of that and other roads?</p> <p>Mr Kemish—I will have to check that. I do not know.</p> <p>Senator MARK BISHOP—Can you check that and let us know?</p> <p>Mr Kemish—Sure.</p> <p>Senator MARK BISHOP—If that is so, could we have a copy of those attachments as well?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—We would want to check that with the minister.</p> <p>Senator MARK BISHOP—I have some of the attachments, but the letters refer to other attachments.</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—What I think we are saying is that we are fairly sure that when the letter was released it was released together with attachment (b), which is a summary of proposed improvements. We will check to see whether any of attachments (b) through (o) were released, and if they were not released we will see if the relevant minister is prepared to make those available.</p> <p>Senator MARK BISHOP—Thank you.</p>	Answered F&PA 70 24/5/05
PM47	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 51 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—When was the welfare reform package finally signed-off on?</p> <p>Ms Davidson—I do not know that I know the day that it was formally finalised.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Are you able to check?</p>	Answer received 11/7/05
PM48	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 59 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Can you give me the dates for when you gave that advice?</p> <p>Ms Davidson—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 13/7/05
PM49	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 59 24/5/05	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Do you know the number of times you advised the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—We will take that on notice. It is dates and numbers.</p>	Answer received 13/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM50	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 65 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I am not critical of that: that is appropriate. Of course, if something has been sitting in the Prime Minister's in tray for 13 months I would have expected you to follow it up—full marks for that. But nothing has been signed off by the Prime Minister. It is still sitting there. Now, would you take on notice—I do not expect you to have the detail here—the same information from the period from 1 January 2004 to 1 January 2005? I am expecting that in about five or six years, if the government is still in office, an answer will be provided!</p> <p>Mr Metcalfe—We will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 12/9/05
PM51	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 68 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—What are the values of those items of furniture?</p> <p>Ms Costello—I would have to check the values. The Australiana Fund is independent of the department, so I do not necessarily know the values.</p>	Answer received 15/7/05
PM52	ONA	Faulkner	F&PA 76 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Are those figures disaggregated in any of the source documentation?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—Not in the material I have in front of me but that is summary material. I would have to go back to the primary sources to see it is disaggregated.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I would appreciate that, if you would not mind. Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—Sure.</p>	Answer received 17/6/05
PM53	ONA	Faulkner	F&PA 77 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—When did that consultancy commence?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—I think he is currently on a contract that started in April, but I would need to—</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—April this year?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—No, April 2004.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Do you have the precise date available?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—No. I do not have the precise date, but I could certainly provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Could you take that on notice, please?...</p>	Answer received 17/6/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM54	ONA	Faulkner	F&PA 77 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—... Is the consultancy for a limited or specified period of time or is it an ongoing consultancy?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—It would be a 12-month contract, and we would have the option of renewing it or otherwise at the end of that period.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—If it was April 2004, that 12 months would be up, would it not? Even with my scant knowledge of the way the calendar works—</p> <p>Mr Varghese—He is still working with us, so I can only assume that we have renewed his contract.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Would you mind taking that on notice as well?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—I will certainly get you the chapter and verse on it.</p>	Answer received 17/6/05
PM55	ONA	Faulkner	F&PA 77 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Can you indicate to the committee, please, when your discussion—which you have indicated was at Dr Gee's initiative—took place?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—I do not have the precise date with me. It would have been perhaps last month. It was around the time that he was first approached by the committee.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—You might take that on notice also...</p>	Answer received 17/6/05
PM56	ONA	Faulkner	F&PA 78 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Are you are aware of whether Dr Gee had contact with any other officer of ONA about that matter?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—Not to my knowledge. That is not to say that he did not, but not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Could you check that, please?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—Certainly.</p>	Answer received 17/6/05
PM57	ONA	Faulkner	F&PA 78 24/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Normally the names of SES officers are made available. You might care to take that on notice. If you are not willing to provide that name you might, formally or informally, talk to the officer concerned and you might be willing to come back and provide it.</p> <p>Mr Varghese—I am certainly happy to do that.</p>	Answer received 17/6/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM58	NWC	Stephens	F&PA 120 24/5/05	Senator STEPHENS—That is very useful, thank you. Can you advise under what decision of the Remuneration Tribunal the commissioners are receiving their fees? Mr Matthews—I would have to take on notice the specific decision, which we do not have with us. Senator STEPHENS—That is fine. If you could take it on notice it would be helpful.Senator STEPHENS—That is very useful, thank you. Can you advise under what decision of the Remuneration Tribunal the commissioners are receiving their fees? Mr Matthews—I would have to take on notice the specific decision, which we do not have with us. Senator STEPHENS—That is fine. If you could take it on notice it would be helpful...	Answer received 11/7/05
PM59	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 16/8/05 Additional info received 14/12/05
PM60	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 12/7/05
PM61	APSC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM62	PM&C	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/7/05
PM63	GG	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/9/05
PM64	APSC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM65	ANAO	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM66	ONA	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM67	IGIS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
PM68	Ombudsman	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/7/05
PM69	NWC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM70	PM&C	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 25/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM71	GG	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/9/05
PM72	APSC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM73	ANAO	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM74	ONA	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM75	IGIS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
PM76	Ombudsman	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/7/05 Revised answer received 13/9/05
PM77	NWC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM78	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/7/05
PM79	GG	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/9/05
PM80	APSC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM81	ANAO	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM82	ONA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM83	IGIS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
PM84	Ombudsman	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/7/05
PM85	NWC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM86	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 15/7/05
PM87	GG	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/9/05
PM88	APSC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM89	ANAO	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM90	ONA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM91	IGIS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
PM92	Ombudsman	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/7/05
PM93	NWC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM94	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/7/05
PM95	GG	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/9/05
PM96	APSC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM97	ANAO	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 31/8/05
PM98	ONA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 8/7/05
PM99	IGIS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answered received 27/6/05
PM100	Ombudsman	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/7/05
PM101	NWC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM102	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 28/7/05
PM103	APSC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM104	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 15/7/05
PM105	NWC	Wong	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05
PM106	PM&C	Crossin	Written	Attached	Answer received 11/7/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM107	GG	Faulkner	F&PA 89 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—Was that some sort of consultancy? Mr Hazell—No. Senator FAULKNER—Just an expert? Mr Hazell—We paid him for the work. Perhaps I had better take that question on notice to give you further details of the costs involved.	Question added to the index 15/8/05 Answer received 1/9/05
PM108	GG	Faulkner	F&PA 90 23/5/05	Senator FAULKNER—How much do the repairs to the Rolls-Royce cost? Mr Hazell—I will have to take that on notice. I do not have that figure.	Question added to the index 15/8/05 Answer received 1/9/05

Please note that answers are due on 8 July 2005

Written QON

PM59

Output 2.1 – Social Policy

Indigenous affairs

Budget

The Indigenous Affairs Budget papers indicate that PM&C received \$695,000 in 2004-05 and \$702,000 in 2005-06 for something called "Indigenous Functions – New Arrangements". Ms Davidson indicated in verbal evidence that these functions include: providing secretariat support for the Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs; assistance in producing the public annual report; and supporting the Ministerial Taskforce (although not providing secretarial support) (p. F&PA 126, 23 May 2004).

1. Please provide a breakdown of how the additional funding is expected to be allocated across the various additional functions within PM&C?
2. How many additional FTE positions have been created within PM&C to support the new arrangements, at what levels and in which Divisions/Branches?

Secretaries Group

3. A request for the minutes of the Secretaries Group meetings has been taken on notice. Should the Government determine that it is not appropriate to release the minutes to the committee, please explain how these minutes differ in status from the notes of the People Smuggling Taskforce meetings that were provided to the Senate Select Committee on a Certain Maritime Incident.
4. Who determines the agenda for Secretaries Group meetings?
5. Who prepares papers for the meetings?
6. Prior to the release of the Secretaries Group's first bulletin in April this year, was there any other form of communication from the Secretaries Group to assist public servants in implementing the new arrangements, which commenced last July?

7. The first bulletin explains how public servants are expected to work together to make the new arrangements work. How was this disseminated to the staff to whom it was particularly relevant? How would other APS staff have become aware of the document and how were they encouraged to read it?
 8. Has the Secretaries Group been working with the Public Service Commissioner to plan and monitor the outcomes of workshops or training for staff in ICCs and their managers in Canberra or State offices? Please provide details of any work undertaken by, or at the instruction of, the Secretaries Group in this area.
 9. Has the Secretaries Group considered the issue of attracting and retaining Indigenous employees in the APS? If so, has it made any recommendations or take any action in this regard? Please provide details.
-

PM60

Output 4.2 – Work of Cabinet Implementation Unit

1. What specific programs or reforms is the Unit currently reviewing or supporting the implementation of?
2. When were these issues referred to the CIU? What is the expected length of CIU's involvement in each area?
3. What is CIU's role in resolving emerging implementation problems and/or reviewing progress in relation to each program or set of programs it is involved with?

Resolving emerging problems in Indigenous affairs

4. Has the Cabinet Implementation Unit (CIU) provided any advice to the Government or the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) in regard to resolving emerging problems in the implementation of the new Indigenous affairs arrangements?
5. If so, at what stage did the CIU become involved? How was the decision made that CIU should become involved?
6. Is the CIU still involved in overseeing or providing advice on the implementation of the new arrangements?
7. What was/is the nature of its involvement? To whom has it provided advice and on what areas/issues?

Review of Indigenous affairs implementation

8. Has the Unit done, or is it planning to do, a review of the implementation of the Indigenous affairs arrangements or the COAG Trials?
 9. If so, when is this planned to be done? If it is currently underway, when will it be completed? Will it be done in stages to provide an ongoing assessment of the implementation process?
 10. Have any of the quarterly implementation reports included information on the progress in implementing the new Indigenous affairs arrangements?
-

PM61

Output 3.1 – Indigenous employment in the APS

Measures to retain Indigenous employees

In response to a question on notice from February (PM1), APSC advise that a number of agencies reported that they did not use measures to retain Indigenous employees during 2003-04. These agencies included the Attorney-General's Department (AG's) and the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS).

1. Is the APSC aware of whether AG's has now introduced measures to retain its Indigenous staff? If so, please describe these measures. Have any particular measures been taken in relation to the staff who transferred from ATSIC/ATSIS?
2. Is APSC aware of whether DOTARS has introduced any measures to retain its two Indigenous staff and/or to attract more? If so, please describe these measures.
3. If either AG's or DOTARS has not introduced measures to retain their Indigenous staff, will APSC be taking any action to encourage them to introduce such measures?
4. Will APSC be taking any action in relation to the other agencies which do not currently have specific strategies for the retention of Indigenous employees?

Separations of Indigenous employees

In February the APSC provided some preliminary data on the separation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ex-ATSIC staff up to 31 December 2004. Ms Tacy also indicated that since that time, two Indigenous SES officers had left the APS.

5. Are any updated figures available on separation of ex-ATSIC staff from the APS since these figures were provided?
6. Are any updated figures available on the separation of Indigenous staff more broadly?
7. In particular, what information is available about the comings and goings of Indigenous SES staff?
8. In February, Ms Tacy stated that the APSC was exploring the reasons for Indigenous staff separations with the Indigenous Employees Network, but that you did not have a definitive answer on the reasons for such separations at that stage. Is it possible to provide a more definitive answer now?

Indigenous Employees Network

9. In relation to the Indigenous Employees Network, Ms Briggs mentioned in February that the APSC had established a national forum of network chairs, whereby "a person from each state meets with [her] and makes suggestions around policy directions and so on". How many times has Ms Briggs met with the national forum this year?
10. To the extent that individual networks meet within Departments and within states, is the APSC aware of which networks are actively meeting and which are not? Please provide details if possible.

Indigenous employment strategy

11. In February, the APSC talked about the Indigenous employment strategy that has been put in place. Please provide an update on how the implementation of this strategy is progressing.
12. In particular, what were the outcomes of the trial of training for ICC staff that was to occur on 6 and 7 March? What lessons were taken from that trial? What is the current timeframe for rolling out the training program across the country?
13. Are all agencies actively participating in the Indigenous Employment Strategy?
14. Ms Briggs also mentioned a steering committee at deputy secretary level, which she chairs. Which Departments are represented on that committee? How many times has this committee met since 1 July 2004? Please provide details of the attendees and apologies for each of these meetings.

PM62 to PM69**A follow-up to a question Senator Ludwig asked in December ...**

1. Regarding the employees that your department or agency has identified as having:
 - (a) fluency
 - (b) accredited translator
 - (c) accredited interpreter
 2. Of these employees, please indicate what the department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the department and those whose were not?
-

PM70**Legal service expenditure**

1. What amount did the Department spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?
2. What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?
3. What amount did the Department spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
4. Does the Department have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?
5. What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Department?
6. Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Department in 2004/2005?
7. In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
8. Does the Department use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?
9. If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
10. If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?

11. In 2004/2005 did the Department obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?
 12. In 2004/2005 did the Department procure any legal services under the thresholds required for 'covered procurements' (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.
 13. In 2004/05 did the Department contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.
-

PM71 to PM77

Legal services expenditure

1. What amount did the Agency spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?
 2. What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?
 3. What amount did the Agency spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
 4. Does the Agency have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?
 5. What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Agency?
 6. Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Agency in 2004/2005?
 7. In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
 8. Does the Agency use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?
 9. If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
 10. If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?
 11. In 2004/2005 did the Agency obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?
 12. In 2004/2005 did the Agency procure any legal services under the thresholds required for 'covered procurements' (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.
 13. In 2004/05 did the Agency contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.
-

PM78 to PM85

Performance pay

1. Is performance pay available under your department/agencies certified agreement?
 2. If so how many staff in your Department/Agency are eligible for performance based pay?
 3. Please provide a breakdown of performance pay awarded for this financial year to date including the following details:
 - (a) How many staff have received performance pay?
 - (b) What levels are those staff at?
 - (c) What gender, a breakdown please?
 - (d) How much has each staff member received?
 - (e) When did they receive it?
 - (f) What was the rationale for the awarding of performance pay in each instance?
 - (g) Did the Department/Agency head receive performance pay?
 - (h) How much?
 - (i) When?
 - (j) On what grounds?
-

PM86 to PM93

Efficiency Dividend

1. What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/agency this financial year and in the out years?
2. The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year's elections, what plans have you made to meet it?
3. What will this mean for staff numbers?
4. Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?
5. Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?
6. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?
7. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?

PM94 to PM101**AWAs**

1. How many staff are covered by AWAs in your Agency/Department?
 2. Can you provide a break down of AWAs by gender and by classification?
 3. Can you tell me how many of the staff on AWAs are paid more than the band for their classification under the certified agreement?
 4. Why were these staff not simply promoted to a higher classification?
-

PM102

Output 4.5 — Support for Official Establishments

1. Firstly can I ask why we do not yet have a 2003/04 annual report for Official Establishments Trust?
2. I understand they are an independent, non-statutory body and are therefore not legally required to submit to parliament, but they have in the past?
3. Please supply a copy.

The Lodge—Costs

4. We discussed costs of maintenance, renovations and refurbishments at The Lodge last time we met. There was some painting, an oven and extractor fan and lounge suite, all since the annual report. (14 Feb 2005)
5. I would like detail of any additional work done on the house and grounds, furniture, fittings since that report, including:
 - (a) Costs.
 - (b) Exact nature of items.
 - (c) Who requested this change?
6. Who requested the updated lounge suite, with the side tables and ottoman that we discussed last time?
7. Can I have a consolidated list of maintenance, renovations and refurbishments for last financial year and this financial year to date, with itemised list of:
 - (a) The exact nature of the work done, or planning done,
 - (b) the cost of all work or planning done
 - (c) Who or which body requested/initiated the changes.

Kirribilli House

8. And at Kirribilli House I would like the same update, (since 14 Feb, 2005) What renovations, refurbishments and or maintenance have there been to the house and grounds, furniture, fittings. Please itemise
 - (a) Costs.
 - (b) Exact nature of items.
 - (c) Who requested this change.
 9. Can I have a consolidated list of maintenance, renovations and refurbishments for last financial year and this financial year to date, with itemised list of:
 - (a) The exact nature of the work done, or planning done
 - (b) the cost of all work or planning done
 - (c) Who or which body requested/initiated the changes.
 10. I understand the drinks bill for Kirribilli House came to about \$500 a week, according to a QoN in the House (no 50, 16 Feb, 2005) for last financial year? The total figure here supplied \$27,196 last financial year. Can you tell me what the costs are for this year to date, for cellaring and consumption?
-

PM103

1. Why has the APSC refused to hold an all staff ballot to get input from employees on the type of their next agreement?
 2. Doesn't this refusal fly in the face of the APS values, especially of consultation and cooperation?
 3. If more than 50% of staff sign a petition requesting an all staff ballot on the type of agreement they would prefer what will the APSC's reaction be?
 4. Will the APSC guarantee that of over 50% of staff vote for a ballot, that the APSC will hold one?
-

PM104

1. I'd like a detailed breakdown of what the \$114.8 million allocated to the APEC taskforce will pay for including the following details:
2. What is the budget for security? Travel, will Australia be footing the bill for internal travel, if so for who and where to, and will we pay any of the international travel costs say for the smaller attendees? What we have allocated for accommodation (specifics please, what style and costs for accommodation for heads of state, what level for others). What the entertainment bill will be, and how that is broken up?
3. What will the capital funds be paying for? Details?
4. And what use will the capital infrastructure be put to after APEC
5. Will the APEC Taskforce feel the brunt of the efficiency dividend cuts that have been applied across all outputs in PM&C, or has their funding been inflated to cover the cut?

PM105**Water**

1. How much money has the Federal Government allocated to on the ground projects under the National Water Initiative?
2. Where has that funding been allocated (State breakdowns)?
3. What is the timetable for the allocation of funds under the Australian Water Fund?
4. What proportion of National Water Initiative funds will be allocated to Northern Australia and what proportion will be allocated to the Murray Darling Basin?
5. How much funding under the National Water Initiative has been allocated to identifying and protecting tropical river systems?
6. I understand that the Prime Minister recently announced \$29 million towards the \$86 million cost of the Mackay waste water recycling project. When will the other States receive their funding? Didn't the Government make a commitment these projects would be announced before the Federal Budget?
7. Did the Australian Water Commission recommend that National Water Initiative funding be tied to the Federal Government's industrial relations agenda and the Construction Code?
8. Was advice sought from the Australian Water Commission on this matter? If not, why not? If it was, what advice did you provide?
9. When did the Australian Water Commission first become aware that National Water Initiative funding would be tied to the Government's industrial relations agenda?
10. When were State and Territory Governments advised that National Water Initiative funds would be tied to the Construction Code or other industrial relations issues?
11. Are you at all concerned that the water reform process will be slowed down because this funding has been tied to unrelated issues?

PM106**Output 2.1 – Social Policy****Contract with Noel Pearson for advice on welfare reform**

1. It has been reported in The Australian newspaper that Noel Pearson has a contract as a consultant to provide three papers to PM&C. Is this correct? If not, what form(s) of advice has Mr Pearson been contracted to provide?
2. What was the process for establishing this consultancy?
3. What is the value of this consultancy?
4. What has Mr Pearson been asked to provide advice on? Please provide details – for example, the terms of reference for Mr Pearson's project.

