

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2006

Question: F1

Outcome General, Output General

Topic: Protocol between the Department of Finance and Administration and the Australian Electoral Commission

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Senator Faulkner asked:

Are you happy for the protocol to be tabled?

Answer:

On 11 February 2002, the former Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, wrote to Senator Faulkner (as Leader of the ALP in the Senate) and attached a copy of the Protocol. On the same date, Senator Abetz also provided copies to Senator Bob Brown, Leader of the Greens; Senator Natasha Stott Despoja (then Leader of the Australian Democrats); and the three independent Senators, Senator Shayne Murphy, Senator Len Harris and Senator Brian Harradine.

On 19 February 2002, Senator Abetz also provided a copy of the Protocol to each of the three independent members of the House of Representatives, Mr Anthony Windsor MP, Mr Peter Andren MP and the Hon Robert Katter MP.

I consider that the Protocol has had wide enough circulation.