

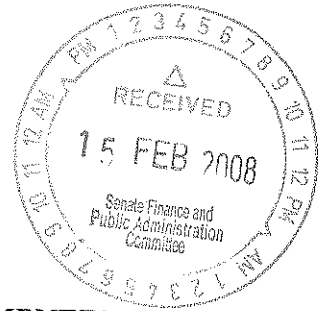
**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Budget Estimates Hearings 2007-2008, 21-22 May 2007



**Question: PM 95**

**Outcome 1, Output 1.1 (Economic and industry policy)**

**Topic: Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review (UMPNER)**

**Direct on Notice**

**Senator Evans asked:**

1. Has the Department briefed the Prime Minister on options for the establishment of a nuclear energy sector in Australia? If so, when?
2. Has the Prime Minister been briefed on the issues that would need to be considered in determining where to site nuclear reactors in Australia?
3. Has the Prime Minister been briefed on likely sites for nuclear reactors in Australia?
4. Is the Department aware of any work by other agencies to determine suitable sites for nuclear reactors in Australia?
5. Has the Prime Minister been briefed on the likely timetable for establishing a nuclear industry in Australia?
6. Can the Department confirm whether the Prime Minister has ever visited a nuclear reactor overseas? If so, when and what reactor was visited?
7. Has the Prime Minister met with any organisation involved in the development or construction of nuclear reactors in the last two years? If so, list the organisations and the date and location of the meetings.

**Answer:**

1. Yes. The Department briefed the previous Prime Minister on various issues relating to uranium mining, processing and nuclear energy options in the lead up to the Howard Government's consideration of its response to the UMPNER taskforce's report.
2. The Department did not brief the previous Prime Minister on issues that would need to be considered in determining where to site nuclear reactors in Australia.
3. The Department did not brief the previous Prime Minister on likely sites for nuclear reactors in Australia.
4. The Department is not aware of any work by other agencies to determine suitable sites for nuclear reactors in Australia.
5. The UMPNER taskforce report that was commissioned by the Howard Government included information on a range of possible timetables for establishing nuclear power in Australia.
6. The Department is not aware of the previous Prime Minister ever visiting a nuclear reactor overseas.
7. The Department is not aware of any meetings being held in the last two years between the previous Prime Minister and organisations involved in the development or construction of nuclear power reactors.