

**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 Hearing 25-29 May 2009

**Question: PM112a-c**

**Outcome 1, Output 3**

**Topic: Establishment of the National Emergency Warning System**

**Senator: Ronaldson**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009**

**Number of pages: 1**

**In relation to the establishment of the National Emergency Warning System announced by the Prime Minister:**

**a) Is it the intention of the Government to have the warning system operational before the end of 2009? If not, why not?**

The Commonwealth, together with the states and territories, agreed at the 30 April 2009 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to establish a national telephone-based emergency warning system (NEWS) by October 2009. COAG further agreed that participating states and territories would jointly be responsible for establishing the NEWS.

**b) As of 5 June 2009, what is the status of the tender process for the development of this warning system?**

Victoria is running the tender process for the NEWS (capable of delivering warnings to fixed line telephones and mobile telephones based on their billing address), on behalf of the states and territories, and has advised that the tender will be issued by early July 2009.

**c) When is it anticipated that the tender process for this warning system will be concluded and contracts awarded?**

Victoria has advised that the contract with the successful tenderer for the NEWS is anticipated to be awarded by the end of August 2009.