

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 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM23

Topic: Victorian Bushfires - Appointment of Ms Nixon

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 54 and 64, 25 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

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Senator RONALDSON-When these discussions were taking place between the PMO and the Victorian government in relation to the chair, I assume that when Ms Nixon was put up as a candidate to head this commission that matter was discussed with the Commonwealth.

Dr Grimes-I do not think any of us here have personal knowledge of the discussions that occurred at that time. We would have to take that question on notice. We do not have officers here who were involved in decision making at that time. None of us at the table here was in PM&C at the time in question.

...

Senator RONALDSON-Do you have any answers for me? I presume someone has been beavering around for the last 20 minutes-in relation to the involvement of the PMO in the appointment of Ms Nixon?

Dr Grimes-No, I do not have any further information for you on that.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) can confirm that none of its officials were consulted on the appointment of Ms Nixon as head of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority. PM&C is not aware of any consultations with the Commonwealth about the appointment.