Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 – Domestic Policy

Topic: COAG report on measures considered at the February meeting

Senator: Payne

Question reference number: 2

Type of question: Hansard, p 62, 23 May

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Question:

Senator PAYNE: There is an awful lot sitting in the time frame for mid-2011? the June-July period that we have discussed? plus a potential COAG meeting for mid-2011 as well, and here we are on 23 May, which is not a long way from mid-2011. What status does your department give to preparation of the agenda and knowing where these things are actually up to? Would you ask two weeks before the planned meeting and hope to heaven that they are on track? I might add that they have not been on track in the past.

Ms Cross: We were just discussing whether there is any report that required to COAG in the middle of the year on the seamless national economy. There is a report back on the future reform agenda; I would need to check whether there is actually a report back on the measures which were considered in February.

Answer:

The Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG) will be reporting to COAG on progress under the National Partnership to Deliver a Seamless National Economy at the next COAG meeting. The department is represented on the BRCWG and monitors progress of the preparation of the report.