

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: development assessment reforms - major project development assessment approval processes

Senator: Senator Payne

Question reference number: 120

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Will reforms around major project development assessment approval processes impact on the current (and apparently completed) DA reforms?

Answer:

At the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 13 April 2012, COAG agreed to task Heads of Treasuries to scope urgently the BCA's proposal to benchmark Australia's major project development approval processes against international best practice, and to report to COAG through Senior Officials.

The States and Territories also agreed to examine reforms that could be undertaken at the State and Territory level to improve the approval process for major projects, for discussion at the next Business Advisory Forum.

As possible reforms are currently being developed by the States and Territories, it is premature to comment on the extent to which these reforms will impact on current Development Assessment reforms.