

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: Business Advisory Forum - reporting

Senator: Senator Payne

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Type of Question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

What consultation mechanisms and timeframes are in place and will the reports of the Taskforce be publicly released in light of these reforms being suggested by, and being for the benefit of, business?

Answer:

The Chair of the Taskforce held preliminary consultations with the Business Council of Australia, the Australian Industry Group, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Council of Small Business Australia, in late May 2012. The purpose of these preliminary consultations was to test whether the initial reform proposals and preliminary timeframes considered by the Taskforce at its first meeting broadly address the key concerns of business and meet the ambition of the commitments made by governments to business at the Business Advisory Forum. The Chair is planning to reconvene a second roundtable discussion with the same peak business groups to seek their views on any further advice the Taskforce proposes to provide to COAG mid-year.

The Taskforce also proposes to test relevant reform proposals with groups with specific sectoral interests in June and July 2012, including stakeholders concerned with environmental protection, biodiversity and energy/climate change reform. The consultations on environmental reform will occur jointly with the Joint Team on Environment Regulation Reform, lead by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. It is expected that further consultations will occur throughout the remainder of 2012.

It will be for COAG to determine whether the reports that the Taskforce provides to COAG will be publicly released.