

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings 2005-2006, 31 October 2005

Question: PM 72

Outcome 1 – Across all outputs

Topic: Task Forces, Interdepartmental Committees and Working Groups

Hansard Page: Direct on Notice:

Senator Evans asked:

- 1. Please provide a list of all currently operative task forces, interdepartmental committees, and interdepartmental working groups which are chaired or led by an official of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).**

Answer:

As at 4 November 2005, PM&C chaired or led the following operative taskforces, interdepartmental committees or interdepartmental working groups:

- 1) Management Advisory Committee (MAC).
- 2) APEC 2007 Taskforce (APEC).
- 3) Australian Public Service Honours Committee (APSHC).
- 4) National Medal Advisory Committee (NMAC).
- 5) Interdepartmental Committee on Defence Honours and Awards (IDC).
- 6) Strategic Policy Coordination Group (SPCG).
- 7) National Emergency Protocol Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 8) National Emergency Call-Centre Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 9) Australian Government Counter-Terrorism Policy Committee (AGCTPC).
- 10) COAG Harmful Biological Material Working Group (Group).
- 11) COAG Other Hazardous Substances (Chemicals) Working Group (Group).
- 12) Offshore Maritime Security Implementation Group (OMSIG).
- 13) Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Unit Steering Committee.
- 14) Publicly-funded Agencies' Collaborative Counter-Terrorism (PACCT) Steering Committee.
- 15) Interdepartmental Committee on the Defence Capability Plan (IDC).
- 16) Working Group on the Defence Capability Plan (WGDCP).
- 17) National Competition Policy Review Taskforce.
- 18) Cabinet Implementation Unit Reference Group (CIURG).
- 19) Deputy Secretaries' Interdepartmental Committee on Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness (IDC).
- 20) Secretaries' Group on Indigenous Affairs (Group).
- 21) COAG Health Working Group Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).

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- 22) Medicare Claiming Arrangements Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 23) COAG Skills Working Group Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 24) Mental Health in Australia Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 25) Immigration Detention Reforms Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 26) Pacific Engagement: High-Level Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 27) Tasmanian Forests Package Implementation Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 28) COAG Climate Change (CCC) Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 29) Biofuels Taskforce Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 30) Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate Interdepartmental Committee (IDC).
- 31) Water Policy Group (Group).
- 32) International Economic Policy Group (IEPG)
- 33) Secretaries Committee on National Security (SCNS)

- 2. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 1, please provide an explanation of their aim, operational remit, reporting requirements and deadlines.**

Answer:

Using the numbering from answer 1.

- 1) MAC advises the Australian Government on matters relating to the management of the Australian Public Service (APS). In addressing its broad advisory function the Committee considers a number of management issues where analysis, discussion, and the identification of better practice approaches would inform and promote improvements in public administration.

While it has no statutory powers or executive functions, it provides a forum for Secretaries and heads of major agencies to discuss significant issues of topical and long-term interest to the APS.

- 2) APEC aims to deliver a safe and successful APEC year in 2007. Its operational remit is to coordinate and manage the logistics of the APEC year. A governance framework for APEC 2007 has been established within which the Taskforce reports. It consists of key groups to provide guidance for strategic, operational and tactical level elements of planning for and delivery of the APEC year. Membership of these groups is drawn from senior officials from the Commonwealth, and in relation to planning for the leaders' week, New South Wales Government officials. The senior

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governing body is the APEC Executive, comprising the Secretary and deputy secretaries of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), the Secretaries of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Attorney-General's Department (AGD), and the APEC Ambassador. The deadlines for the Taskforce are the APEC meetings to be held throughout 2007.

- 3) The APSHC coordinates honours nominations for members of the Australian Public Service.
- 4) The NMAC provides advice on the department's assessment of organisations applying to be eligible for the National Medal.
- 5) The IDC develops and co-ordinates policy advice on honours and awards for members of the Australian Defence Force.
- 6) The role of the SPCG is to enhance interaction and exchange on strategic and security issues and to come together in a crisis to ensure the necessary arrangements for supporting ministers are in place.
- 7) The role of the IDC is to oversee the development of the National Emergency Protocol (NEP) agreed by COAG on 27 September 2005.
- 8) The IDC coordinates development of a national emergency call centre capability.
- 9) The AGCTPC is the peak interdepartmental strategic policy coordination and information-sharing forum in the Australian Government on counter-terrorism issues and developments.
- 10) The COAG Harmful Biological Material Working Group and the COAG Other Hazardous Substances (Chemicals) Working Group are working on identifying improvements to security regulation of biological material, radiological sources and chemicals.
- 11) Refer to 10) above.
- 12) The role of the OMSIG is to coordinate the implementation of government decisions arising from the report of the PM&C Taskforce on Offshore Maritime Security.

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- 13) The SET Unit Steering Committee oversees the operations of the SET Unit which coordinates and focuses science, engineering and technology to support Australia's counter-terrorism needs.
- 14) The PACCT Steering Committee oversees the operation of the PACCT research programme. The programme brings together the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and Geoscience Australia to further their work on counter-terrorism related projects within their existing resources.
- 15) The aim of the IDC on the Defence Capability Plan (and 16) below) is to consider the Defence Capability Plan, specifically, the affordability over the ten years of the plan, risks to the delivery of the plan and its ongoing management.
- 16) The Working Group considered issues in 15) above.
- 17) The Taskforce was established to support the Commonwealth's work on the National Competition Policy Review (NCP) and the development of a new micro-economic reform agenda. The Taskforce is also responsible for providing secretariat support to the Commonwealth-State working group established by COAG to undertake the Review.
- 18) The CIU Reference Group act as an advisory group to the CIU, providing a range of perspectives and feedback on the Unit's operations and activities.

The reference group is advisory, consultative and collaborative; it does not have a decision-making role, nor are its recommendations binding on the CIU.
- 19) The aim of the IDC is to draw together the work of Australian Government agencies on pandemic preparedness to ensure complementarity and consistency of effort.
- 20) The Group provides advice to the Ministerial Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs on: directions and priorities in indigenous policy and expenditure; the performance of indigenous-specific and mainstream government programmes and services in improving outcomes for indigenous people; and resource allocation across the Australian Government for indigenous-specific programmes and services.

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- 21) The IDC provides direction and advice to the Australian Government on options to address specific health system issues under discussion with states and territories in the COAG Health Working Group.
- 22) The IDC is responsible for developing options for possible electronic Medicare claiming.
- 23) The IDC provides direction and advice to the Australian Government on options to address some specific vocational education and training systems issues under discussion with states and territories in the COAG Skills Working Group.
- 24) The IDC was established to consider the 'Not for Service' report and other available material and provide government with advice.
- 25) The IDC was established to oversee the implementation of reforms to immigration detention arrangements and expedited processing of protection visa applications.
- 26) The IDC aims to oversee a coordinated approach by Commonwealth agencies to good governance activities in the Pacific.
- 27) The IDC aims to oversee the implementation of the programme elements of the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.
- 28) The IDC was established to facilitate the development of the Australian Government's position on the proposed action plan being developed by the COAG Climate Change inter-jurisdictional working group.
- 29) The IDC was established to implement the government's response to the Biofuels Taskforce report, which was announced by the Prime Minister on 22 September 2005. The Government is advised on the progress of implementation and the industry's progress towards the Government's Biofuels target.
- 30) The IDC was formed to develop an Australian Government position in relation to the Partnership's work programme and outcomes for the inaugural Ministerial meeting.
- 31) The Group was established to coordinate and support the Australian Government's implementation of the National Water Initiative and to coordinate and oversight related water policy issues.

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- 32) The IEPG serves as a coordinating group on international economic, trade, aid and financial policy issues involving PM&C, Treasury, DFAT, Reserve Bank of Australia and other agencies as required.
- 33) SCNS provides coordinated advice to the National Security Committee of Cabinet (NSC) on national security policy, coordinates implementation of policies and programs relevant to national security and gives guidance to departments and agencies involved in intelligence and security.

3. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 1, please indicate under whose authority the body was established.

Answer:

All the listed taskforces, IDCs and interdepartmental working groups were established by PM&C except for (using the numbering from answer 1):

1. MAC was established under section 64 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.
2. The Taskforce was established by the Australian Government.
6. The SPCG was established by Ministers in 1990.
- 10-11. The COAG working groups were established under the authority of COAG.
20. The Group was established by the Australian Government.
22. The Group was established by the Australian Government.
26. The IDC was established by the Australian Government.
27. The IDC was established by PM&C in consultation with the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).
32. The IEPG was formed as part of the regular consultative arrangements between agencies in 1998.
33. SCNS was established by the Australian Government.

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4. **For each of the bodies listed in response to question 1, please provide a list of the members, including the name of the department, agency or organisation they represent, and their role in the task force, interdepartmental committee or working group.**

Answer:

Details of the organisations participating in each taskforce, IDC, or working group are provided below. Providing a listing of the role of each member of these taskforces, IDCs or working groups would be very labour intensive and would require an unreasonable diversion of existing resources. Using the numbering from answer 1.

- 1) There were 25 MAC Members as at January 2006:

19 Permanent Members

(18 Secretaries plus Public Service Commissioner)

Secretary of PM&C (Chair)

Public Service Commissioner (Executive Officer)

Secretary of Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH)

Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

Secretary of Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

Secretary of Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR)

Secretary of Attorney General's Department (AGD)

Secretary of Department of Defence (Defence)

Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Secretary of Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

Secretary of Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA)

Secretary of Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS)

Secretary of Department of Health and Ageing (Health)

Secretary of Department of Finance and Administration (Finance)

Secretary of Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA)

Secretary of Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA)

Secretary of The Treasury (Treasury)

Secretary of Department of Education, Science and Technology (DEST)

Secretary of Department of Human Services (Human Services)

5 Members invited by the Chair of MAC

The Taxation Commissioner

CEO of Centrelink

Associate Secretary of the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC)

CEO of the Australian Customs Service (Customs)

The Australian Statistician

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- 2) Taskforce staff are employed by PM&C, except for the APEC Security Branch, which the Protective Security Coordination Centre (in AGD) has established within the Taskforce to meet its responsibility for coordinating the whole-of-government security arrangements for APEC 2007. NSW Police has formed an APEC 2007 Police Security Command which is co-located in the Taskforce's Sydney Office.
- 3) PM&C, Public Service Commission, and one other department, currently DEH.
- 4) PM&C, Government House Honours Secretariat, Australian Federal Police (AFP), Emergency Management Australia (EMA).
- 5) PM&C, Government House Honours Secretariat, Defence, AFP.
- 6) PM&C, AGD, DFAT and Defence.
- 7) PM&C, AGD, Defence, Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC), EMA, DFAT, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), DITR, FaCSIA, Centrelink, Health, DOTARS, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and DAFF.
- 8) PM&C, Defence, PSCC, EMA, DFAT, FACSIA, Human Services, Centrelink, Medicare, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Health, DOTARS, AFP and DAFF.
- 9) PM&C, AGD PSCC, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), Office of National Assessment (ONA), AFP, Defence, DFAT, DOTARS, EMA, DIMA, Customs, Health, DITR, Finance, DEST, Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA), Centrelink and FaCSIA.
- 10) PM&C, DFAT, Health and DAFF.
- 11) PM&C, DAFF, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, Defence and Health.

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- 12) PM&C, Defence, Customs, Joint Offshore Protection Command (JOPC), AFP, DFAT, DOTARS, AGD, DIMA and DITR.
- 13) PM&C, AGD, CSIRO, ASIO, AFP and Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO).
- 14) PM&C, AGD, CSIRO, AFP, DEST, ASIO, Defence, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), DSTO and Geoscience Australia.
- 15) PM&C, Defence, Treasury and Finance.
- 16) PM&C, Defence, Treasury, Finance and DFAT.
- 17) PM&C, Treasury, DITR, DOTARS, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).
- 18) PM&C, DITR, FaCSIA, DAFF, Human Services, Defence, DVA, DCITA, DOTARS, Health, Finance, DEST, DEWR, DFAT.
- 19) PM&C, DFAT, AusAid, Customs, AGD, DAFF, FACSIA, DIMA, DITR, Health, Defence, Human Services, Centrelink, DIMA, DOTARS.
- 20) PM&C, DEH, DEWR, Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), AGD, OIPC, Health, FaCSIA, DOTARS, DCITA.
- 21) PM&C, Treasury, Finance, Health, FaCSIA, Human Services, Medicare Australia.
- 22) PM&C, Treasury, Finance, Health, Human Services, Medicare Australia.
- 23) PM&C, Treasury, Finance, DEWR, DEST, DIMA.
- 24) PM&C, Finance, Treasury, Health, FaCSIA.
- 25) PM&C, DIMA, AGD, DFAT, ASIO, Finance, FaCSIA.
- 26) PM&C, Treasury, DFAT, AusAID, Finance, DIMA, AFP, Defence, APSC, Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), Customs, AGD and DOTARS.
- 27) PM&C, DEH, DAFF, DEST

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- 28) PM&C, DEH, DITR, Treasury.
- 29) PM&C, DEH, DITR, Treasury, Finance and DOTARS.
- 30) PM&C, DEH, DITR and DFAT.
- 31) PM&C, DEH, DAFF, DOTARS, Treasury, DITR and National Water Commission (NWC).
- 32) PM&C, DFAT, Office of National Assessment (ONA), Treasury, Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), AusAID, and other agencies relevant to agenda items on an ad hoc basis.
- 33) PM&C, DFAT, Defence, Treasury, AGD, the Chief of the Defence Force, ONA and ASIO.

5. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 1, please indicate which department, agency or other organisation provides secretariat support.

Answer:

Using the numbering from answer 1.

- 1) APSC
- 2) Any secretariat support that is required is provided from within the Taskforce.
- 3) – 33) PM&C

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- 6. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 1, please indicate when and where they have met, and when and where they plan to meet.**

Answer:

Using the numbering from answer 1.

- 1) The Committee met for the first time in December 2000 and have met twice a year since. The committee meetings are held at APSC or PM&C.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 2) The work of the Taskforce in planning for all APEC meetings in 2007 is ongoing. Meetings are held regularly in the Taskforce at its offices in Canberra and Sydney.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 3) In the past, meetings have been held twice a year in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 4) In the past, meetings have been held as required, generally twice a year, in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 5) In the past, meetings have been held as required, generally twice a year, in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 6) The group aims to meet monthly, in Canberra but this may vary depending on emerging issues and the availability of members.

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Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 7) The IDC has met twice in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 8) The IDC has met twice in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 9) The committee has met in Canberra on an as needs basis. The committee has met on 8 occasions.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 10) Meets on an "as needs basis".

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 11) Meets on an "as needs basis".

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 12) Four meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 13) Three meetings have been held in Canberra.

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Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 14) The PACCT Steering Committee has met three times in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 15) The IDC met twice in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 16) The group has met six times in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 17) The NCP Review Taskforce is an ongoing Taskforce with officers from other agencies seconded to PM&C for the duration of the Taskforce.

- 18) The reference group has met once.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 19) Two meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 20) Seven meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

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- 21) Thirteen meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 22) One meeting has been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 23) 5 meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 24) One meeting has been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 25) Nine meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 26) One meeting has been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

- 27) Five meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

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28) Five meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

29) Two meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

30) Six meetings have been held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

31) The Group has its meetings fortnightly and is ongoing. Meetings are usually held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

32) The IEPG meets quarterly.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

33) The committee has its meetings monthly. Meetings are held in Canberra.

Given that normal business operations often require some flexibility around the future scheduling of meetings, it is not possible to give accurate information on when and where future meetings will be held.

7. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 1, please indicate who is responsible for determining the agenda of meetings.

Answer:

Using the numbering from answer 1.

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- 1) The agenda for the meetings are determined by the Executive Officer and the Chair.
- 2) Meeting agendas are determined within the Taskforce.
- 3) - 33) The Chair of the body, in conjunction with the members.

8. Please provide a list of all currently operative task forces, interdepartmental committees, and interdepartmental working groups (excluding any listed in response to question 1) upon which there is representation from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Answer:

As at 4 November 2005, PM&C was represented (but did not Chair) the following operative taskforces, interdepartmental committees or interdepartmental working groups:

- 1) Australian Public Service (APS) Round Table.
- 2) Implementation of Machinery of Government Working Group.
- 3) Information Management Strategy Committee.
- 4) Chief Information Officer Committee.
- 5) Protective Security Coordination Committee.
- 6) Personnel Security Working Group.
- 7) Physical and Administration Security Working Group.
- 8) Review of the taxation treatment of plantation forestry.
- 9) Budget Coordination Committee.
- 10) Joint Economic Forecasting Group.
- 11) Public Sector Joint Economic Forecasting Group Sub-Committee.
- 12) International Joint Economic Forecasting Group Sub-Committee.
- 13) Orchestras Review 2005 Implementation Cross-portfolio Working Group.
- 14) Aboriginal tent embassy IDC.
- 15) Privacy and related secrecy issues IDC.
- 16) Shaping and Influencing Working Group (SIWG).
- 17) Strategic Planning Group (SPG).
- 18) Strategic Targeting Policy Committee (STPC).
- 19) Iraq Task Force (ITF).
- 20) Standing Inter-Departmental Committee on Defence Exports.
- 21) Defence Estate Inter-departmental Committee.
- 22) Secure Network Owners Committee.
- 23) Australian Government Counter-Terrorism Committee (AGCTC).

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- 24) Australian Government National Security Media Directors Forum (AGNSMDF).
- 25) Foreign Intelligence Coordination Committee (FICC).
- 26) IT Coordination Group (ITCG).
- 27) Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Industry Strategy Group.
- 28) Identity Security Steering Committee.
- 29) Commonwealth Reference Group on Identity Security.
- 30) Security Co-ordination Subcommittee.
- 31) Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Security Working Group.
- 32) Entry Advisory Group for Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.
- 33) IDC on Defence Legislation Part IIIAAA of the Defence Act.
- 34) People Smuggling Taskforce.
- 35) Interdepartmental Committee on the Christmas Island Immigration Reception and Processing Centre.
- 36) International Counter-Terrorism Coordination Group.
- 37) Non-Proliferation Coordination Group.
- 38) Counter-Proliferation Intelligence Coordination Group.
- 39) National Disclosure Policy Working Group.
- 40) Information Infrastructure Protection Group.
- 41) E-Security Coordination Group.
- 42) Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council.
- 43) National Committee for Critical Infrastructure Protection.
- 44) Australian Government Senior Officers Group.
- 45) Air Security Officer Working Group.
- 46) Maritime Security IDC.
- 47) Australian Government Transport Security Policy Committee.
- 48) International Outreach IDC.
- 49) Rapid Response Deployment Teams IDC.
- 50) Civil Maritime Surveillance 2004 Steering Committee.
- 51) The Centrelink IT Refresh Oversight Committee.
- 52) Welfare to Work Project Management Group.
- 53) Framework for Future Action in Indigenous Affairs: the SES Taskforce.
- 54) Repatriation of Human Remains IDC (this is an ad-hoc IDC).
- 55) The Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs Subgroup on Land Issues.
- 56) Welfare to Work Steering Committee.
- 57) Welfare to Work Strategic Project Management Group.
- 58) Family Law Reform Inter-agency Steering Committee (IDC).

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- 59) Australian Government Task Force on Child Development, Health and Wellbeing.
- 60) Child Support Taskforce Steering Group.
- 61) Australia's appearance before the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) committee in January 2006 (IDC).
- 62) Australia's reservation to CEDAW regarding paid maternity leave (IDC).
- 63) Trafficking in Persons (IDC).
- 64) Standing Interdepartmental Committee on International Narcotics Issues.
- 65) Review of the Effectiveness of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- 66) Strategic Directions in Community Care, including a Review of the Home and Community Care Specific Purpose Payment (IDC).
- 67) National Public Health Programme (IDC).
- 68) Fortification of Food with Folic Acid and Iodine.
- 69) Food from Clones and their Progeny.
- 70) Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (IDC).
- 71) Interdepartmental Committee on Skills Needs.
- 72) War Crimes IDC.
- 73) National Action Plan to Address Threats to Australia's Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security.
- 74) IDC on International Education
- 75) Iraq Task Force.
- 76) Anzac IDC.
- 77) IDC on PNG Enhanced Cooperation Programme (ECP) implementation.
- 78) IDC on the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).
- 79) IDC on Nauru.
- 80) International Forest Policy IDC.
- 81) New-to-Business Initiative Working Party on the Small Business Interdepartmental Forum
- 82) Review of the Administrative Arrangements for Tourist Shopping in Australia
- 83) Tourism White Paper Implementation Group.
- 84) Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA) Review Reference Group
- 85) Adaption IDC
- 86) Carbon Capture and Storage IDC
- 87) National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) IDC
- 88) Waste Management (National Packaging Covenant) IDC
- 89) Australian Government Water Fund Contact Group

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90) National Water Initiative Contact Group

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9. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 8, please provide an explanation of their aim, operational remit, reporting requirements and deadlines.
10. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 8, please indicate under whose authority the body was established.
11. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 8, please provide a list of members, including the name of the department, agency or organisation they represent, and their role in the taskforce, interdepartmental committee or working group.
12. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 8, please indicate which department, agency or other organisation provides secretariat support.
13. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 8, please indicate when and where they have met, and when where they plan to meet.
14. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 8, please indicate who is responsible for determining the agenda of meetings.

Answers:

For each body listed in question 8, the answer to Questions 9-14 is a matter for the chairing department or agency which are listed below using the numbering for answer 8.

- 1) DEWR.
- 2) APSC.
- 3) Finance.
- 4) Finance.
- 5) AGD.
- 6) ASIO.
- 7) ASIO.
- 8) Treasury.
- 9) Treasury.
- 10) Treasury.
- 11) Treasury.
- 12) Treasury.
- 13) DCITA.
- 14) DoTARS.
- 15) AGD.
- 16) Defence.
- 17) Defence.

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- 18) Defence.
- 19) DFAT.
- 20) Defence.
- 21) Defence.
- 22) Finance.
- 23) PSCC.
- 24) AGD.
- 25) ONA.
- 26) ONA.
- 27) Defence.
- 28) AGD.
- 29) AGD.
- 30) AGD.
- 31) AGD.
- 32) DIMA.
- 33) Defence.
- 34) DIMA.
- 35) Finance.
- 36) DFAT.
- 37) DFAT.
- 38) ONA.
- 39) ONA.
- 40) AGD.
- 41) DCITA.
- 42) AGD.
- 43) AGD.
- 44) AGD.
- 45) AFP.
- 46) DFAT.
- 47) DoTARS.
- 48) DFAT.
- 49) AFP.
- 50) Customs.
- 51) Centrelink.
- 52) DEWR.
- 53) OIPC.
- 54) OIPC.

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- 55) AGD.
- 56) DEWR.
- 57) DEWR.
- 58) AGD.
- 59) FaCSIA.
- 60) FaCSIA.
- 61) FaCSIA.
- 62) FaCSIA.
- 63) AGD.
- 64) Health.
- 65) Health.
- 66) Health.
- 67) Health.
- 68) Health.
- 69) Health.
- 70) DAFF.
- 71) DEST.
- 72) DIMA.
- 73) DIMA.
- 74) DEST
- 75) DFAT.
- 76) DVA.
- 77) DFAT.
- 78) DFAT.
- 79) DFAT.
- 80) DFAT.
- 81) DITR.
- 82) Treasury.
- 83) DITR.
- 84) DoTARS.
- 85) DEH.
- 86) DITR.
- 87) DEH.
- 88) DEH.
- 89) NWC.
- 90) NWC.

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- 15. Please provide a list of all taskforces, committees, working groups or consultative bodies, excluding any listed in response to questions 1 and 8 above, to which the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet provides secretariat support.**

Answer:

As at 4 November 2005, PM&C provided secretariat support to the following taskforces, committees, working groups or consultative bodies not listed in the responses to questions 1 and 8:

- 1) Commonwealth-State Standing Committee on Treaties (SCOT).
- 2) Ministerial Committee on Government Communications (MCGC)

- 16. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 15, please provide an explanation of their aim, operational remit, reporting requirements and deadlines.**

Answer:

- 1) SCOT is a consultative body which aims to identify and consult on treaties and other international instruments of sensitivity and importance to States and Territories. There are no formal reporting requirements or deadlines.
- 2) The MCGC considers matters referred to it under the Guidelines for Australian Government Information Activities 1995.

- 17. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 15, please indicate under whose authority the body was established.**

Answer:

- 1) COAG agreed at its meeting in June 1996 that a set of Principles and Procedures for Commonwealth-State Consultation on Treaties should be adopted in order to achieve the best possible outcome for Australia in the negotiation and implementation of international treaties. The SCOT was established as part of these Principles and Procedures.
- 2) The Prime Minister

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- 18. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 15, please provide a list of the members, including the name of the department, agency or organisation or interest they represent and an explanation of their role on the specific body.**

Answer:

- 1) The following departments and agencies participate in the SCOT: DFAT; AGD; PM&C; representatives of State and Territory Government departments. All members participate in the SCOT's deliberations.
- 2) Chair: Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Special Minister of State

Permanent Members:

The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Hon Andrew Robb AO MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

Mr Petro Georgiou MP, Member for Kooyong

Mr Tony Smith MP, Member for Casey

Mr Tony Nutt, Office of the Prime Minister

Casual Members:

Minister(s) or their representative relevant to the agenda item under consideration.

- 19. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 15, please indicate when and where they have met, and when where they plan to meet.**

Answer:

- 1) The SCOT has met twice annually since 1996 at PM&C. The next scheduled meeting is for May 2006.
- 2) There have been 27 meetings of the MCGC in the period 1 July 2005 to 4 November 2005. Details of the number of meetings in previous years are provided in PM&C Annual Reports. Meetings have been held in Canberra (predominantly) and in Melbourne. The MCGC meets as required.

- 20. For each of the bodies listed in response to question 15, please indicate who is responsible for determining the agenda of meetings.**

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Answer:

- 1) State and Territory officials in consultation with PM&C, DFAT and AGD determine the agenda of the meetings.
- 2) The Chair approves the agenda.