

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17**

Finance Portfolio  
28 February 2017

**Department/Agency:** Finance  
**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.1  
**Topic:** Perth Freight Link

**Senator:** Ludlam

**Question reference number:** F29

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 65, 28 February 2017

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Thursday, 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** When the funding commitment was made, did you or Prime Minister Abbott have a completed business case?

**Senator Cormann:** The process of assessment went through all of the appropriate channels. It was considered in the appropriate fashion.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I just asked a really direct question.

**Senator Cormann:** Of course, you have been pursuing, I think, six or seven orders through the Senate now.

**Senator LUDLAM:** And you have denied all of those.

**Senator Cormann:** That is not right. We have provided as much information as we could provide without harming the public interest.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I am not asking for documents here.

**Senator Cormann:** And, of course, including that part of the business case which could be publicly released and has been publicly released.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Yes. I understand that. Did you or the Prime Minister at the time, Mr Abbott, have those documents at the time the funding decision was made?

**Senator Cormann:** I will take on notice what specific documentation was in front of government.

**Senator LUDLAM:** How could you not know? Did you have a cost-benefit analysis?

**Senator Cormann:** You are obviously asking me questions now about 2014. I will take them on notice to make sure the answers I provide are 100 per cent accurate.

**Answer:**

Detailed questions concerning specific documents in front of Government should be referred to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Minister for Urban Infrastructure as the responsible Ministers.