

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 8

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 2

Programme: Sustainability Policy and Analysis Division

Topic: Sustainable Australia's Suburban Jobs Programme

Hansard Page: 112-3

Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: The government's economic growth plan for Tasmania lists the number one priority as the creation of a Tasmanian major projects approval agency by 1 July 2014. Both output 5.1 and 5.2 did not answer the following question so I will go through it again. They referred the matter to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Subsequently that department referred it back to environment department. Given that this major projects approval agency was the No.1 priority of the incoming government, and you are the output responsible for Sustainable Australia's Suburban Jobs program, can you outline any discussions with agencies, departments or stakeholders on the creation of the Tasmanian major projects approval agency?

Mr Thompson: In terms of the particular outcome we are in at the moment, there have been no discussions by our officers in relation to that commitment. I can take the question on notice.

Senator Birmingham: I have had discussions about that particular election commitment with the ministers in the regional development portfolio. It is certainly their understanding that it is the responsibility of their department. We have taken it on notice. We will obviously be able to furnish an answer which may be able to clarify exactly where it lies.

Senator URQUHART: It was not dealt with there. As Senator Williams said, 'Third time lucky.' If I can get a response on notice, that would be great.

Mr Thompson: We will consult with other departments and get you a whole-of-government answer if we can.

Answer:

The Department has confirmed that the Tasmanian Major Projects Approval Agency falls under the Department of Industry.