

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Climate Risk Assessment

2025 - 2026

Department: Department of the Treasury
Topic: Modelling start date
Reference: Spoken 16 September 2025
Senator: **Larissa Waters**

Question:

Ms Carlton: I will clarify and say we've been modelling to support development of the Net Zero Plan since early last year. Different modelling for the Net Zero Plan specifically has been going on since early last year.

Senator WATERS: Sorry, I didn't catch that last bit.

Ms Carlton: We have been modelling to support the development of the Net Zero Plan since early last year.

We'll have to check the specific dates of what we've been doing.

Senator WATERS: If you could, please.

CHAIR: The question, though, is when you started modelling the specific target that you've—

Dr Heath: We will have to take that on notice. I can't—

CHAIR: Was it as late as last year? Was it as far back as last year?

Ms Carlton: Modelling the trajectories?

CHAIR: Yes.

Ms Carlton: We have been modelling since last year, but we've been modelling different pathways, as Dr Heath mentioned, to inform the transition.

Senator WATERS: You've modelled different pathways, but you've just modelled a particular number for a 2035 target. When did modelling start on that particular 2035 target?

Dr Heath: I'd have to take that on notice.

CHAIR: Was it this year?

Ms Carlton: We'll have to take that on notice.

CHAIR: Oh, come on! Was it prior or post the election? Senator ANANDA-RAJAH: I have a point of order, Chair. Dr Heath: I think it was prior.

Senator ANANDA-RAJAH: The Treasury officials have said that they will take it on notice.

Dr Heath: I'll take it on notice to make sure—

Senator ANANDA-RAJAH: There is no need to keep on about it. They've said they'll take it on notice. They have responded to your questions by repeatedly saying that they are going to take it on notice. So why don't we give them the benefit of that doubt—

CHAIR: I look forward to the specific date on notice, but I think the question—

Senator ANANDA-RAJAH: rather than expose them to making mistakes by challenging their memory, which they're clearly not willing to do?

Senator DEAN SMITH: Officials are free to correct their evidence at any point in time. I'm sure the committee will accommodate officials correcting their record during the—

Senator ANANDA-RAJAH: They've also said repeatedly that they'll take it on notice.

CHAIR: Order! Dr Heath, if you can't give us an answer as to whether it was post or prior the election, I accept that. But I would like to know if you do know that answer.

Dr Heath: I genuinely can't recall exactly the point of time.

CHAIR: Fair enough. Senator Waters.

Senator WATERS: Not to belabour the point, but just before that interruption I thought I heard you say, 'I think it was prior.' Is that what you said before—that it was prior to the election?

Dr Heath: I think that's right, but—

CHAIR: You can take it on notice.

Dr Heath: I would prefer to take it on notice.

Answer:

Treasury began applying a placeholder 2035 emissions reduction target of 65 per cent on 2005 levels in December 2024, in line with the indicative range outlined in the Climate Change Authority's April 2024 *Targets, Pathways and Progress* Issues Paper.