

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

The operation, effectiveness, and consequences of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016

Public Hearing: Friday 19 May 2017

Questions Taken on Notice

Questions:

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Senator McKENZIE: I am just handing the document over. In interpreting government legislation and enacting it, the difference between the research I have had done by the Parliamentary Library and the research that has been trotted out by the shadow minister for the last month and a half is that the 150 kilometres from a capital city in this research has come from the GPO, whereas the shadow minister has taken a very generous interpretation of where a capital city starts and ends. So, if you are a Victorian, his particular assumptions mean that Lang Lang is in Melbourne, Sorrento is in Melbourne and Romsey is in Melbourne.

CHAIR: Senator McKenzie, is there a question?

Senator McKENZIE: Yes, there is. In terms of interpreting legislation, what would be the common sense approach if the order, as it does say, is 150 kilometres from a capital city? Where would we take that 150 kilometres from?

Ms Vine-Camp: Obviously, there are the two very different versions. I am not aware of where they would generally take it from. In my view, maybe it would be the GPO, but I am not quite sure how it has been implemented, previously, if at all, when they are considering how they map these distances.

Senator McKENZIE: Is there someone we could ask how that would be done? This is a new order, obviously.

Ms Vine-Camp: Yes. Your best agency to speak to would be the department of infrastructure, which is delivering this policy.

Senator McKENZIE: Thank you. I will put the question on notice to them.

Answers:

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) has accepted this question given its role in developing the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016 (the Order).

The department considers it would be reasonable to measure from the General Post Office of the relevant state capital in applying the Order.