

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Studies commissioned by the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0132

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 June 2020

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Please provide a list of the studies you have commissioned, outline the nature of the studies, who is responsible for doing the studies and how much each study costs.

Answer:

The National COVID-19 Coordination Commission has commissioned the below research and analysis.

Subject Matter	Commissioned date	Contract completion date	Who undertook the research or analysis	Total cost
Social Policy Market research to inform whole-of-government communications	7-Apr-20	30-Jun-20	Resolve Strategic	\$541,750.00
Analysis on East-West Gas pipeline	21-Apr-20	16-May-20	Ernst and Young	\$0
High level supply chain scoping study	1-May-20	22-May-20	PriceWaterhouseCoopers	\$0
Research and analysis on sustaining and strengthening	6-Apr	1-May	Boston Consulting Group	\$0

Australia's advanced
manufacturing
capability and
energy prices.

Research and
analysis on
sustaining and
strengthening

Australia's advanced
manufacturing
capability and
energy prices –
follow on work.

4-May

4-Jun

Boston Consulting Group

\$500,000

Options related to
tax reform

6-May-20

13-May-20

KPMG Australia

\$0

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Climate Change

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0133

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Has the NCCC been asked to include work on addressing climate change as part of their deliberations?

If so, how are you addressing this?

Answer:

The National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (the Commission) was established by the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, to provide advice to the Australian Government on actions to anticipate and mitigate the economic and social impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission has not been tasked to explicitly address climate change. It is looking at the sustainability of the economy and the broad range of factors which contribute to that outcome.

As a strategic advisory body, the Commission is examining a range of reform areas that could assist in Australia's economic recovery. This includes examining a broad range of projects, proposals and ideas from peak bodies, businesses, not-for-profit organisations and individuals.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Not-for-Profits

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0134

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Is the Not-for-Profit working group addressing the viability of Not-for-Profits and recent concerns about the potential for large Job losses in the sector? If so, how?

Answer:

The Charity, Philanthropy and Fundraising Advisory Group is discussing a wide range of challenges that COVID-19 has posed to the sector and the people that it supports. The Group is looking at ways that not-for-profit organisations can collaborate with one another, and the private and public sectors, to increase giving – in the form of financial donations and volunteerism – and minimise potential job losses in the sector.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Agricultural labour force

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0135

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Is the NCCC considering the agricultural labour force and ensuring there are workers, particularly backpackers whom many fruit and vegetable growers rely on, available for spring harvest in places such as South West Western Australia? If so, how?

Answer:

Yes. Seasonal workforce availability is a concern for many agricultural sectors while national border restrictions remain in place. The National COVID-19 Coordination Commission is engaging with the agriculture industry to understand their needs, and is working closely with the National Coordination Mechanism, based in the Department of Home Affairs, and the COVID-19 Response Team at the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on a range of responses.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Conflicts of Interest – Mr James Fazzino

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0137

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

While the Manufacturing Taskforce has not been required to disclose conflicts of interest, has any process been put in place due to James Fazzino being a Director of, and holding shares in APA Group which wants to build the gas pipeline to Narrabri, a project which was identified in the interim Taskforce Report as a “New field development [that] must be enabled to proceed”?

Answer:

Regarding the disclosure of conflicts of interest for the Manufacturing Taskforce, refer to Question on Notice 0011.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: The Hon Greg Combet AM MP – shareholdings or contractual relationship

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0140

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Has Greg Combet provided to PM&C the existence of any shareholdings or contractual relationships with Santos, Energy Australia, APA Group, Origin or Jemena? If so, please describe the nature of those disclosures.

Answer:

Declarations are provided in confidence and contain sensitive personal information related to themselves and members of their immediate families, the disclosure of which may unreasonably infringe the privacy of the individuals concerned.