

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: Progress of the Narrabri Gas Project

Senator: Patrick

Question reference number: 0202

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 31 August 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

The activities of the NCCC are being cited as the reason the Narrabri Gas Project is now being progressed.

1. Were there any specific recommendations regarding the Narrabri gas project in the manufacturing task forces final report?
 - a. If so, what were they?
2. Are there any recommendations in the manufacturing taskforce's report that if implemented would provide benefits to the Narrabri gas project if it were to go ahead?
 - a. If so, what are they?

Answer:

The National COVID-19 Commission Advisory Board advice is one of many sources of input to the Government's decisions in responding to economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Advice on these matters may be subject to deliberations of Cabinet and National Cabinet. It is a longstanding practice not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its committees.

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: Conclusion of Ms Catherine Tanna's role with the National COVID-19 Commission Advisory Board

Senator: Patrick

Question reference number: 0203

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 31 August 2020

Number of pages: 2

Question:

The Prime Minister announced that Catherine Tanna would be stepping down from the Commission to avoid conflicts of interest.

1. On what date will Catherine Tanna finish with the Commission?
2. What is the conflict that the Prime Minister was referring to when he announced that she was stepping down?
3. Please provide the Committee with a copy of the Conflict of Interest declarations?
4. Will EnergyAustralia stand to benefit from any of the recommendations of the Commission?
5. On the 4 June hearing it was raised that Catherine Tanna had a role in inviting members to join the Manufacturing Taskforce.
 - a. Who did she invite?
 - b. What was the process for selecting these members?

Answer:

1. Ms Catherine Tanna's last Board meeting was on 12 August 2020.
2. The Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, thanked Ms Tanna for her contribution to the National COVID-19 Commission Advisory Board (NCC) and noted her role with EnergyAustralia.
3. NCC members' declarations are provided in confidence and contain sensitive personal information related to themselves and members of their immediate families. The disclosure of this information may unreasonably infringe the privacy of the individuals concerned.
4. The NCC's advice is one of many sources of input to the Government's decisions in responding to economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Advice on these matters may be subject to deliberations of Cabinet and National Cabinet. It is a longstanding practice not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its committees.

5. Please see response to Question on Notice 0072.