

Environment and Communications References
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Climate Risk Assessment
Question No: IQ25-000020
Hearing Date: 16 September 2025
Division/Agency: Climate Change Policy Adaptation and Risk Division
Topic: Prime Minister briefings for the Climate Risk Assessment
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Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: I have a quick follow-up because time is tight. On what date did you brief the Prime Minister's department, what are the qualifications—are any of them scientists?—of the folk who then directly briefed the Prime Minister and when did that occur?

Mr Mundy: I don't have specific dates. I can say that there has been constant engagement across government—

Senator WATERS: I need specific dates. That's the question that I have for you.

Mr Mundy: with other departments that have been involved in briefing their own ministers because, of course, the risk assessment and adaptation plan affect every portfolio in the Australian government.

Senator WATERS: What are the dates on which you briefed the Prime Minister's office?

Mr Mundy: We'll take on notice dates when we've engaged with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Senator WATERS: Can you come back to me today with that, please? It's an important point because the 2035 targets are about to be set. We need to know when the Prime Minister's office was briefed. It's unfortunate that he wasn't briefed. Are the folk who are then briefing him—do they have a science background? What qualifications do they have? This is a highly technical and very important report. It shouldn't be briefed to the Prime Minister by media folk or comms folk; it should be scientists doing that work.

Answer:

- Departments regularly consult and brief on policies and documents as part of the normal decision-making process.
- Questions relating to briefings for the Prime Minister's Office should be directed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.