

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
28 February 2017

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: 2/2.1
Topic: Perth Freight Link

Senator: Ludlam

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Question:

Senator LUDLAM: When the funding commitment was made, did you or Prime Minister Abbott have a completed business case?

Senator Cormann: The process of assessment went through all of the appropriate channels. It was considered in the appropriate fashion.

Senator LUDLAM: I just asked a really direct question.

Senator Cormann: Of course, you have been pursuing, I think, six or seven orders through the Senate now.

Senator LUDLAM: And you have denied all of those.

Senator Cormann: That is not right. We have provided as much information as we could provide without harming the public interest.

Senator LUDLAM: I am not asking for documents here.

Senator Cormann: And, of course, including that part of the business case which could be publicly released and has been publicly released.

Senator LUDLAM: Yes. I understand that. Did you or the Prime Minister at the time, Mr Abbott, have those documents at the time the funding decision was made?

Senator Cormann: I will take on notice what specific documentation was in front of government.

Senator LUDLAM: How could you not know? Did you have a cost-benefit analysis?

Senator Cormann: You are obviously asking me questions now about 2014. I will take them on notice to make sure the answers I provide are 100 per cent accurate.

Answer:

Detailed questions concerning specific documents in front of Government should be referred to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Minister for Urban Infrastructure as the responsible Ministers.