

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 83
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 3
Programme: Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)
Topic: Government funding
Hansard Page: 50
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: Do you chair them all?

Dr Fleming: We chair all of them. DFAT co-chairs the strategic interests in Antarctica.

Dr Kennedy: In answer to your earlier question, I think on the economic capability development one we will come back to you. There is direct engagement with the Tasmanian government and the other bodies in Tasmania that are interested in economic development. But we will confirm on notice for you exactly how that group is engaging with those players.

Answer:

The Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) of the Department of the Environment chairs the inter-departmental group established to address the 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan report recommendations clustered around Tasmanian economic development issues. Engagement with Tasmanian stakeholders on the report has primarily been through the AAD's long-standing relationship with key groups and includes:

- Arranging a meeting between the Minister for the Environment and key Tasmanian stakeholders to discuss the report on 11 December 2014.
- Active and ongoing participation in the Tasmanian Government's Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Working Group.
- Active and ongoing engagement with the Tasmanian Polar Network.