

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates February 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 77

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Page 74-75, 28/02/2017

Topic: SDGs process involvement

Senator Moore, Claire asked:

Senator MOORE: Are you aware that at the government level the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is working with a large group of departments, co-chaired with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, looking at the impact of the SDGs and how we work towards the 2020-30 agenda? Is Australia Post part of that process?

Mr Fahour: I have to be honest: I am not aware of that—but I will make myself aware of it and will follow up on that.

Senator MOORE: Minister, are you aware whether your department is taking a role in the SDG process?

Senator Fifield: Sorry, Senator, I was focused on something else.

Senator MOORE: It is around the sustainable development goals. What is happening at the government level is that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade are jointly chairing a cross-departmental committee with a whole bunch of departments—I am still trying to find out who they are—looking at our response, which has to be a public response. Are you aware of whether your department is part of that?

Senator Fifield: I will have to check that.

Senator MOORE: Please take it on notice. Thank you, Chair.

Answer:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet lead two inter-departmental groups relating to the 2030 Agenda. One is a Deputy Secretary level inter departmental committee and the other is a First Assistant Secretary level Working Group. The Department of Communications and the Arts participates in both.

The portfolio is represented by the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australia Post does not participate in either of the two senior inter-departmental groups.