

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

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Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 3
Program: Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)
Topic: Antarctic task force
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can you provide an update on the outcomes of the joint Commonwealth, state and industry Antarctic task force?

Dr Gales: In many ways the government's launch of the Antarctic Strategy has been the main mechanism through which we are delivering the clearly articulated priorities and deliverables through there and working through that process in delivering the various actions through the years. The task force at this stage has not met for some time. I would have to go back and check the date on which it last met, but it was some time towards the middle of last year, from memory. I would have to double-check that.

Answer:

The Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Taskforce met on 11 December 2015 and 15 March 2016. After its second and final meeting, it reported on its work to a meeting of the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council in April 2016. The Taskforce's work has fed into a number of ongoing Commonwealth and Tasmanian processes, including the Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan launched in April 2016.

The Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council is managed by The Treasury.