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Dear Committee Secretariat,

Following the last Estimates (as noted in response to SQ17-000609 and SQ17-000352), the Department undertook to follow up with information about stakeholder engagement for environment and energy related Sustainable Development Goals.

A consultation forum, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Forum: the environment and energy Goals in focus, will be held on Monday 18 September 2017 in Sydney.

A copy of the program for the Forum is attached. The Forum will explore a range of areas including the barriers, incentives and opportunities for advancing the Goals. The Goals that will be discussed at the Forum are:

- Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-being
- Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13 - Climate Action
- Goal 14 - Life below Water
- Goal 15 - Life on Land

The Forum will be used as an opportunity to identify success stories, challenges and incentives to achieve the environment and energy Goals. It will also explore innovative ways being used to give effect to the Goals across sectors, and look for opportunities to foster cross-sector engagement, strengthen networks and build partnerships to advance common objectives on environment and energy issues.

The event has been organised with the assistance of the Australian Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN). Approximately 80 attendees are expected to participate in the workshop and include leaders across a range of sectors including government, business, industry, academia, non-government organisations and other civil society groups. A copy of the invitation forwarded to attendees is attached for the Committee's information.

The Department would be happy to provide an update following the Forum.

SQ17-000609

Senator Urquhart asked:

Can the Department please provide the agenda and in due course outcomes of the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) September 2017 Workshop on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals? Can the Department also provide a copy of any communication to ACIUCN Members on the purpose of the Workshop.

Answer:

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy will provide further details of the proposed workshop with the Australian Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN) on the environment-related Sustainable Development Goals as they are confirmed, including the agenda and communication on the purpose of the workshop. Planning is currently underway.

SQ17-000352

Senator Moore asked:

Senator MOORE: On notice, can I get some information about that particular process in terms of what the intent is, the planning around it, who is going to go and that kind of thing, as that information becomes available? I understand that it is evolving at the moment, but can I get that on notice rather than taking this time?

Mr Sullivan: I will try to give you the information now, because the timelines for that may not fit the questions on notice timeframe. The agreement to that being the next step in terms of consultation came from a conversation probably two months ago between Australia's regional councillor for the IUCN, Peter Cochrane, and me. We met with Foreign Affairs and Trade officials to let them know that we were proposing to do this. Foreign Affairs and Trade and Prime Minister and Cabinet will attend that workshop. The actual timing for the workshop has not been finally locked down. I have to go through a negotiation phase within the ACIUCN executive. That will probably be finalised over the next three to four weeks. That will then be sent to all ACIUCN representatives. In terms of who will attend that and who will not, I can give you, on notice, the list of who those representatives are.

Senator MOORE: That would be good.

Answer:

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy will provide further details of the proposed workshop with the Australian Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN) on the environment-related Sustainable Development Goals as they are confirmed. Planning is currently underway.

