

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 49
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Foreign Minister Trip to The GBR – Briefing
Hansard Page: 35
Question Date: 22 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Chisholm asked:

Senator CHISHOLM:The briefing notes that were provided to her—would you be able to provide them to us so that we could see what was provided before she made such comments?

Mr Oxley: I cannot give you briefing that was provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to the foreign minister. You will need to take that up in their estimates committee hearing, I would suggest.

Senator CHISHOLM: But you provided the briefing notes, didn't you?

Mr Oxley: We provided comments on briefing that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade prepared for the foreign minister. That would be a normal process of interchange between departments. The only direct contribution or engagement with the minister was a face-to-face discussion.

Senator CHISHOLM: Would the contributions that the department made to those briefings be able to be made available to us?

Mr Oxley: I will take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

The Department did not provide any substantive comments on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's briefing material apart from confirming accuracy of the content.