

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Additional Budget Estimates  
11 February 2016

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**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Take over of GM Holden's plant in Elizabeth

**REFERENCE:** Written question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** AI-114

In relation to the proposal from Punch Corporation to take over GM Holden's plant in Elizabeth:

- a. What level of coordination is there between the Department with state government counterparts in South Australia and Victoria? Please outline the nature of the Department's discussions with the South Australian and Victorian Government officials in relation to this proposal.
- b. What resources in the Department are being devoted to assessing the viability of this project? How many FTE are involved?
- c. What discussions has the Department had with the Departments of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Transport and Foreign Affairs in regards to the proposal? What level of coordination is there between the different departments to work on the business case?
- d. The letter from Minister Pyne to Punch Corporation dated 07 January 2016 states that the Minister has conveyed his views to the senior management of General Motors Holden and that he has asked them to give the proposal a receptive hearing." When did that occur?
- e. What dialogue has the Government has with General Motors in Detroit with respect to the proposal, other than by way of the letter? What dialogue is intended?
- f. Will the Department participate in a government delegation to Detroit to work on the business case with General Motors?

**ANSWER**

- a. The department has regular discussions with both state governments, including discussions on the Punch idea.
- b. In the absence of a formal proposal from Punch, viability could not be assessed.
- c. The department held initial discussions with other portfolios, however in the absence of a business case or formal proposal, no coordinated assessment work has been undertaken.
- d. Discussions were held during December 2016
- e. The department has not been in direct contact with General Motors in Detroit.
- f. Given the announcement on 26 February 2016 by General Motors and Punch to abandon the proposal, the department has no plans to participate in a government delegation to Detroit on the matter.