

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Meetings with former Minister Macfarlane

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Waters

QUESTION No.: AI-85

1. In relation to the PM's Statement of Ministerial Standards and the cooling-off period for former Ministers during which they are not allowed to lobby the government. Are you aware of the Order of Continuing Effect adopted by the Senate on 23 November 2016 in relation to rolling disclosure of meetings with former Ministers?
2. The Order is called Order number 20C - it states that each Minister must table a record of all meetings between former Ministers who are within the cooling off period and current Ministers or senior officials. Is your Department complying with the Order?
3. Some comments from former Resources Minister Macfarlane, who is still within the cooling off period and is the CEO of the Queensland Resources Council, were reported in the Townsville Bulletin recently.[1] He boasted at a business function in Townsville in February that he would talk to his "good mates in Canberra" in order to make sure our Native Title laws are amended in the wake of a Federal Court decision which threatens the Adani coal mine. Did the Minister, or anyone in your Department or the NAIF have any contact with Mr Macfarlane about that issue?
4. (If there are any meetings) When did those meetings take place?
5. Who was involved?
6. Who initiated the meeting?
7. What was discussed?

ANSWER

1. The Department is aware of the Order.
2. The Order is not directed at the Department.
- 3-7. The department has undertaken a search of calendar entries for all current departmental staff for the period of 1 February 2017 until 31 March 2017. This has resulted in no record of any such requests. Questions regarding the activities of the Minister or the NAIF should be directed to those entities.