

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Commonwealth-State Relations Division

Question No: 229

Topic: Bell Group Inquiry - GST

Reference: Hansard page 98 (01 March 2017)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

Senator KETTER: I have some questions about the Bell Group and in relation to GST. The Prime Minister made the announcement on 10 April last year [...] Can you tell me when the Treasury first became aware of that announcement?

Mr Brennan: I would have to take that on notice, because it is going back some time. We would have to check with the office as to when the Treasurer—the Treasurer, did you say—first became aware.

Senator KETTER: Were there any other options being considered to satisfy Western Australia about the distribution of the GST revenue?

Mr Brennan: Again, I would have to take that on notice. It is quite possible that there were other options mooted.

Senator KETTER: You can come back to me what those options were. When was the option of the \$490 million in infrastructure spending decided upon?

Mr Brennan: Again, we might take that on notice. This was the announcement made on 10 April 2016, is that right? In relation to the \$490—

Senator KETTER: I have got \$490.

[...]

Mr Brennan: We will take that on notice.

Senator KETTER: Just finally, in relation to that, why was the option of the \$490 million in infrastructure spending chosen?

Mr Brennan: Again, I will take that on notice and see what information we can provide. [...]

Answer:

- The Treasury provided advice relating to assistance to Western Australia. Treasury does not disclose the details of advice that it provides to Government.
- The Government announced its decision to provide a \$490 million payment to Western Australia on 10 April 2016.