

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Structural Reform Group

Question No: 239

Topic: Snowy Mountains Scheme 2.0

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

1. Was Treasury involved in the development of the Snowy Mountains Scheme 2.0 policy announcement?
2. If so, what was Treasury's role?
3. If not, why not?
4. Did Treasury provide advice to the Treasurer or to the Government in relation to Snowy Mountains 2.0?
5. If so, when?
6. If not, why not?
7. When was Treasury first advised of the Snowy Mountains 2.0 policy?
8. Is Treasury aware of the \$2 billion figure reported in the media in relation to the Snowy Mountains 2.0 policy?
9. Is Treasury aware of where this figure would have come from?
10. Is Treasury aware of why this \$2 billion figure was not mentioned in the Prime Minister's official media release on 16 March 2017, or by Snowy Hydro's official media release of 16 March 2017?
11. Has Treasury done any work in relation to increasing the Commonwealth's shareholding in Snowy Hydro?
12. Has Treasury provided advice to the Treasurer or the Government in relation to increasing the Commonwealth's shareholding in Snowy Hydro? If so, when?
13. Has Treasury done any work in relation to the length of time required to complete Snowy Mountains 2.0?
14. Has Treasury provided advice to the Treasurer or the Government in relation to the length of time required to complete Snowy Mountains 2.0? If so, when?
15. Does Treasury agree with the assessment that it would take four or five years to complete Snowy Mountains 2.0?

Answer:

Treasury was involved in the development of Government's plan to evaluate the feasibility of expanding the capacity of the Snowy Hydro Scheme, and as such, was aware of the plan prior to the public announcement of the policy. Treasury's role was largely through providing appropriate briefing to the Treasurer during the Government's consideration and announcement. The feasibility study that has been announced will provide further detailed assessment of the proposal. Further advice will be provided at that time.