

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Minister's Commitment to Visit Muckaty Station

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2014, page 45)

QUESTION No.: BI-70

Senator LUDLAM: Late last year, Minister Macfarlane—and this was confirmed on 19 March in response to questions that I asked; thank you for the reply—said: 'I'm committed to visiting Muckaty Station when the schedules of all relevant parties allow.' That was a commitment we were never able to secure from the former minister who had carriage of this. Has that meeting been scheduled as such? What steps have been taken to advance it?

Mr Hoffman: I am not aware that that has been scheduled.

Senator LUDLAM: Why is that?

Mr Hoffman: There are a range of matters the minister is dealing with.

Senator LUDLAM: That is what you told us three months ago.

Ms Beauchamp: I still think that commitment remains.

Mr Hoffman: The commitment remains and it was subject to a range of parties' convenience, but I am happy to confirm and come back to you on that.

Senator LUDLAM: I am just after an answer as to whether this is a commitment that will hang in the air for another eight years or whether anything has actually been done to progress it. I do not think that is an unreasonable request.

Senator Ronaldson: There are a number of matters before the Australian courts at the moment. I am sure that the minister is taking those into account, in relation to both his schedule and other matters. We will take that on notice and let you know. I do not imagine, if the minister said he is going to go, that he has any intention other than of going. I am sure of that. It will be timely and it will depend on a number of circumstances, and it would be inappropriate for me to predict what they may or may not be.

ANSWER

The Minister's commitment to visit Muckaty Station remains subject to the schedules of all relevant parties.