

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: BET 66

Topic: North Queensland insurance taskforce

Reference: Hansard page no. 89 - 02 June 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

66. Senator McLUCAS: I understand that you are going to appoint a task force. Is that a Treasury task force of internal personnel? You also have a reference panel.

Ms Quinn: That is right.

Senator McLUCAS: There is a bit of confusion in the sector about who is doing what where.

Ms Quinn: We have an internal task force of officials. It is being headed by Mr Mike Callaghan; he will be leading it. It does have staff from Treasury. It will also have staff from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. It has expertise that will be drawn from the private sector as appropriate as well. So, depending on what is required, it will have supplementary staff. The reference panel has been pulled together to ensure that there is access to other forms of information and as part of what is almost like a peer review process as well. So the task force and the reference panel will be working together to make sure that there is appropriate input from all the different sources.

Senator McLUCAS: Is it appropriate to ask you for the names of the persons on the task force and what department or industry sector they are from? I am very alive to the fact that these are public servants but they are probably senior public servants, I imagine.

Ms Quinn: They are at all levels, because the task force requires people to do the photocopying as well as people to do the analysis.

Senator Ryan: Can I take that on notice on behalf of the minister, Senator McLucas, given the point you have made? Obviously we do treat individuals differently depending on the office they hold.

Senator McLUCAS: That is right. I am interested to get an understanding of the breadth of experience on the task force, without going to the personalities on the task force.

Ms Quinn: I am happy to—

Senator Ryan: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

66. The Northern Australia Insurance Premiums Taskforce and Secretariat is led by Mike Callaghan AM, a former Executive Director in the Australian Treasury. Mr Callaghan brings strategic senior leadership experience from both the public and private sector to the Taskforce.

The Secretariat is a core group of officials that have senior experience in insurance, modelling, strategic economic budgetary advice, extensive experience with international and financial institutions policy and implementation, project and stakeholder management.

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Consultations are underway with a wide group of community and industry stakeholders and the Secretariat is working closely with a reference panel made up of experts representing the insurance industry, consumers and government.