

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Meetings with Former Ministers

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 October 2016, page 117-118)

QUESTION No.: SI-28

Senator WATERS: On 12 October former Minister Macfarlane was interviewed in his new capacity here from parliament. Are you aware whether he had meetings that day with the minister or with any departmental officials?

Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice. Could you repeat the date?

Senator WATERS: 12 Oct this year. Can you recall whether departmental staff or the minister or the minister's office has met with the former CEO of the Queensland Resources Council in the past—Mr Michael Roche, who was the CEO for very many years?

Ms Beauchamp: I have met with him on a couple of occasions.

Senator WATERS: Could you provide a notice to me the dates of those meetings and a brief description of the nature of the meetings and the topics discussed? Likewise, if you could take on notice whether the minister or the minister's office similarly engaged with Mr Roche, and the dates of those engagements and a brief description of the nature of them.

Ms Beauchamp: Which minister are you asking for now in terms of the engagement?

Senator WATERS: Any that has headed your department.

Ms Beauchamp: Since what time?

Senator WATERS: Since Mr Roche has been CEO. It might be quite a long time.

Ms Weston: The secretary has been secretary of this department only since the change of government in 2013, so that would be the—

Senator WATERS: Obviously the department is larger than just one woman, albeit she is no doubt doing a very good job.

Ms Weston: But part of the issue is that the resources and energy part of the department came into the department only in 2013, as well. So there will be a period of time when this department did not have resources and energy.

Senator WATERS: If you could answer for the relevant period where this department had resources.

Ms Weston: I would thinking that from 2013 is probably—

Senator WATERS: Thank you, and I will pursue earlier times with other relevant departments.

Ms Weston: The other relevant department is actually here.

Senator WATERS: Could you provide me both time periods then?

Ms Weston: You are asking in relation to the secretary, that was all?

Ms Beauchamp: [inaudible]

Senator WATERS: I was not actually just lending it to you. I am also interested in your meetings, too.

Ms Beauchamp: It is quite a large task, because, of course, as a department we meet with a range of stakeholders and it would be absolutely imperative for us to meet with a number of associations and industry and other groups. So it would be a large task just for the time that I have been the secretary of the department to see which officers and when met with the CEO of the Queensland Resources Council.

Senator WATERS: Thank you for taking that task on. I appreciate that it is a large one

Ms Beauchamp: I will see what I can do. If it is an unreasonable diversion of resources I might have

to say that. But I will do what I can.

Senator WATERS: And if you can provide me to the best of your capacity that would be very useful. I can always come back and ask for more if I need to. I am interested in meetings with the current chair of APPEA, Martin Ferguson, who is of course a former resources minister. Again, have you or departmental officers or the minister or the minister's office staff met with former minister Martin Ferguson in his capacity as the chair of APPEA. If so, when, and on how many occasions?

Ms Weston: What period of time are you talking about?

Senator WATERS: While he has been the chair of APPEA, which is from about one month after he left parliament.

Ms Beauchamp: Again, I will have to take that on notice. I do not have that at my fingertips.

Ms Weston: If records have not been kept—it could have been at a function and people would not keep a record of that—we will not be able to include that.

Senator WATERS: Sure. I guess I am more interested in formal meetings where lobbying or advocacy or business matters were discussed, as opposed to casual chance meetings at a function that were not specifically a meeting designated for those two participants.

Ms Weston: I understand.

ANSWER

Question: On 12 October former Minister Macfarlane was interviewed in his new capacity here from parliament. Are you aware whether he had meetings that day with the minister or with any departmental officials?

Answer: We have not identified any meetings between the Minister, departmental staff and former Minister Macfarlane on 12 October 2016.

Question: Can you recall whether departmental staff or the minister or the minister's office has met with the former CEO of the Queensland Resources Council in the past—Mr Michael Roche?

Answer: We have undertaken a search of calendar entries for all current departmental and Ministerial staff. Seven meetings have been held with Mr Michael Roche as head of the Queensland Resources Council – three departmental and four ministerial since 18 September 2013.

Question: I am interested in meetings with the current chair of APPEA, Martin Ferguson, who is of course a former resources minister. Again, have you or departmental officers or the minister or the minister's office staff met with former minister Martin Ferguson in his capacity as the chair of APPEA. If so, when, and on how many occasions?

Answer: We have not identified any meetings between the Minister, departmental staff and former Minister Martin Ferguson.