

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Question: PM6

Topic: COAG - National Partnership Agreement

Asked By: Senator Payne

Type of Question: 83-84 (21/02/2011)

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Number of pages: 2

Senator PAYNE - ... How does COAG allow the review of a national partnership implementation plan to be delayed until six weeks after the end of the reporting period, which means the council does not have an adequate opportunity to review the plans properly and in a timely way?

Mr English - I would have to take that particular example on notice. I am not aware of the background of that one, I am sorry. Again, I will see what I can do while we are here today.

Answer:

The COAG Reform Council's report on progress on the Seamless National Economy reforms released in February 2010 flagged concerns with the clarity of the competition reform stream implementation plan. The Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG) subsequently considered several papers recommending revisions to the competition reform stream implementation plan. The BRCWG agreed to a final set of revisions to the plan on 21 June 2010.

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The former Minister for Finance and Deregulation, the Hon Lindsay Tanner MP, and the former Minister Assisting on Deregulation, the Hon Dr Craig Emerson MP, wrote to the Prime Minister on 6 July 2010 seeking COAG endorsement of the proposed revisions to the implementation milestones.

The Prime Minister wrote to her COAG colleagues on 13 July 2010, seeking out-of-session agreement by 16 July 2010. The Agreement to the revisions was finalised when the last state agreed on 16 August 2010.