

**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: PM8**

**Topic: Gascoyne Flood Funding**

**Asked By: Senator Back**

**Type of Question: 92-92 (21/02/2011)**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 March 2011**

**Number of pages: 2**

**Senator BACK - I was asking, are you aware that the Premier of Western Australia corresponded with the Prime Minister at the end of December alerting her to the fact that the Gascoyne floods constituted a natural disaster and the Prime Minister acknowledged that in writing to that effect and therefore certain action should be taken under the national disaster recovery scheme?**

**Ms Cross - I would have to actually check the details because there were large numbers of exchanges of correspondence towards the end of December and early January on a range of different natural disasters. I can recall correspondence from the Western Australian Premier but could not go to the detail of that correspondence without checking for you [...]**

**Senator BACK - ... The reason for my question, and that which went to Minister Ludwig last week, was to ask why the Premier having written that letter and the Prime Minister having responded the people in the Gascoyne did not then receive the \$1,000 per adult, \$400 per child under the natural disaster recovery scheme, which, of course, is not means tested. I am trying to get to the point of understanding why that funding did not flow.**

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**Ms Cross - As I said, I will check the details for you and take that question on notice.**

**Answer:**

On 31 December 2010, the Premier of Western Australia (WA), wrote to the Prime Minister requesting the activation of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Category C clean-up and recovery grants of up to \$15,000 for primary producers and small businesses in the Gascoyne area. The Prime Minister activated these arrangements on 6 January 2011.

Following further natural disasters in WA, the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General jointly announced the activation of the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment on 11 February 2011, for both the WA floods and bushfires.