

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Taskforce

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 30

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 86

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: If I could I would—but that is an aside. I will come back to those. I was not aware of whether the questions had been answered or not, so I can clarify that. When did the department establish a task force to propose a new post-2020 emissions target for Australia to take to the Paris conference of the UNFCCC in December 2015?

Ms Cross: The Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs announced the establishment of the task force on 10 December.

Senator LUDWIG: Who was on the task force?

Ms Cross: The task force has a range of people from different departments on it. It is working within PM&C and working closely with DFAT, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Industry and Science and the department of the Treasury.

Senator LUDWIG: Do they have a work schedule?

Ms Cross: They certainly have a forward work plan; yes.

Senator LUDWIG: They must have a date on which they will have to arrive at a decision point at.

Ms Cross: The government has indicated that its post-2020 target will be announced in mid-2015.

Senator LUDWIG: That is the date for the announcement. So is the work schedule available to the committee?

Ms Cross: I will take that on notice. I do not think it has been publicly released.

Answer:

On 28 March 2015, the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for the Environment released an Issues Paper inviting views on Australia's post-2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.

Submissions will be accepted until 1 May 2015.

The taskforce is working to the Government's timetable of a mid-year target announcement.