

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Abolition of the CRC – role of COAG

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 194

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

With reference to evidence by Ms Cross (proof Hansard, pg.62) that the abolition of the COAG Reform Council was discussed at the meeting of COAG on 2 May 2014: Was the abolition of the council on the meeting agenda? If not, in what form was the matter raised?

Did PM&C prepare papers for the meeting related to the abolition of the council? If so, (a) on what date were draft papers sent to the Prime Minister's Office and (b) on what date were final papers circulated? If not, why not?

Why did the communique of the meeting not make reference to the abolition of the council?

Were there any other matters decided at the council meeting on 2 May 2014 that were not included in the communique?

Answer:

1. The matter was raised by the Prime Minister under other business.
2. No papers were provided for the discussion.
3. The decision to cease Commonwealth funding for the Council was a Commonwealth budget decision. Any formal announcement was held until the release of the 2014-15 Budget.
4. Yes, consistent with longstanding practice.