

## 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:** PM's website – authorisation of video

**Senator:** Senator the Hon John Faulkner

**Question reference number:** 63

**Type of Question:** FPA, Tuesday 27 May 2014, page 65

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator FAULKNER: One of the videos is entitled, "A message from the Prime Minister—WA Senate election". It was posted on Sunday 30 March. I think the Senate election was on 5 April in WA, as you would recall. The question I have goes to the issue of authorisation, which of course is a requirement of the Commonwealth Electoral Act. I raised this earlier and I had hoped some advice might have been provided in the meantime. Minister, can you indicate to the committee what the obligations are in relation to this?

Senator Abetz: Look, I cannot. I can take that question on notice. But my first thoughts in relation to the matter would be that this is clearly an identifiable video on a clearly identified site. The ownership, operation et cetera is well known; therefore, whether specific authorisation has to occur on that, I do not know. We will get an answer on notice to you.

**Answer:**

The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* outlines obligations in relation to authorisation of electoral material.

Staff in the Prime Minister's Office upload videos to YouTube and an embedded link is placed on pm.gov.au.

The Prime Minister's Office determines the material uploaded.