Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
27-28 May 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 2/2.3
Topic: Malabar Headland –expenditure to upgrade lot 301

Senator: Ketter, Wong
Question reference number: F43
Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Pages 35-36, 28 May 2015
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator KETTER: Did the Department of the Environment seek advice from the Department of Finance in relation to this decision to spend $5 million?
Ms Elliott: There have been ongoing discussions with the Department of the Environment, but we did not determine the $5 million.
Senator KETTER: What discussions have been held there?
Ms Elliott: My understanding is the $5 million is for a number of issues. The discussions have been very general around the actual site because we are the
...
Senator WONG: When was Finance first aware of the announcement to which Senator Ketter referred?
...
Senator WONG: Could you just let us know whether or not Finance was aware of the nature of the announcement, and the expenditure to which Senator Ketter has referred, before the announcement was made. If so, please let us know approximately when Finance became aware of that decision being made.
Senator Cormann: We might have to take that on notice.
Senator WONG: I assumed that. Could you also confirm for us—I am sure Senator Ketter will put this on notice at the Environment and Communications Committee or that it will be followed up there—who the decision maker around the expenditure was? Was it only Minister Hunt or was there ministerial involvement or departmental agreement with Finance?

Answer:

Finance was made aware on 16 March 2015 that an announcement would be made.

In relation to the decision maker for the NPP, it is the Environment Department's NPP and the question should be directed to them for a response.