

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Australia in the Asian Century

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 108

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

On what date was the Australia in the Asian Century website, previously maintained by PM&C, archived? Who made that decision?

On what date was the Australia in the Asian Century Taskforce disbanded? Who made that decision? How were taskforce staff members informed? On what date were staff informed? Can a copy of the communication to staff be provided?

Has the Australia in the Asian Century Strategic Advisory Board been disbanded? If so, (a) on what date (b) who made that decision (c) how were board members informed and (d) can a copy of advice to board members be provided?

Has the Australia in the Asian Century Deputy Secretaries Steering Committee been disbanded? If so, (a) on what date and (b) who made that decision?

What is the status of the Australia in the Asian Century Indonesia Country Strategy?

What is the status of the Australia in the Asian Century China Country Strategy?

What is the status of the Australia in the Asian Century Japan Country Strategy?

What is the status of the Australia in the Asian Century India Country Strategy?

What is the status of the Australia in the Asian Century South Korea Country Strategy?

Was the Secretary of PM&C responsible for developing an Australian Public Service capability strategy to help departments and agencies embed regional and global dimensions into their domestic policy analysis? If so, what is the status of this strategy?

What is the status of the COAG senior officials working group on Australia in the Asian Century?

Answer:

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The Australia in the Asian Century White Paper website was archived on 20 September 2013. The decision was made by First Assistant Secretary, Ms Rachel Bacon.

The Australia in the Asian Century Taskforce dissolved on 16 September 2013. The decision was made by the Secretary of PM&C. This was communicated to staff verbally to the affected staff within the Taskforce and their home agencies in mid-September 2013.

The Advisory Board has not been disbanded. Its ongoing role is a matter for the Government.

The Steering Committee has not been disbanded. It previously met on an ad-hoc basis as required.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has responsibility for the Australia in the Asian Century Country Strategies. Each of the Strategies is complete and they were launched and tabled in Parliament in July and August 2013.

The Secretary of PM&C and the Australian Public Service Commissioner were responsible for developing an APS capability strategy. The ongoing need for, and role of, an APS-wide strategy will be a matter for Government.

The COAG senior officials working group on Australia in the Asian Century will not be continuing.