

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Relocation of government agencies and functions to Tasmania

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 119

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

With reference to the Government's pre-election Tasmanian policy document released in August 2013 that says "The Coalition believes there is scope for appropriate Commonwealth agencies or functions to be relocated in whole or part from Canberra to Tasmania"; and "It makes intuitive sense to relocate, for example, Commonwealth agencies like the forestry functions of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to Tasmania".

How many Commonwealth agencies have relocated to Tasmania since that promise was made in August 2013.

How many other promises in the policy document have been broken.

Answer:

All commitments set out in the Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania are either underway or completed.

The Tasmanian Major Projects Approvals Agency (an agency of the Industry, Innovation and Science portfolio) was established in Launceston on 1 July 2014. The Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania says "relocation of Commonwealth agencies or functions should only occur where there is an inherent logic or cost advantage to doing so".