

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: Administrative Arrangements Order

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

With reference to changes to the Administrative Arrangements made on 21 and 30 September 2015:

Why was it necessary to make two changes in the space of days.

Why were all water policy matters not moved from the Environment Department to the Agriculture Department.

What responsibility for water has been allocated to Senator Ruston. When was it allocated.

What matters were moved from the Attorney-General's Department to the Communications Department. Why were these matters moved.

Why were "Gov 2.0 and related matters" added to PM&C's matters on 21 September 2015, and removed from PM&C's matters on 30 September 2015.

Answer:

The Prime Minister recommended that the Governor-General amend the Administrative Arrangements on 21 September 2015 and on 30 September 2015. The details of the Administrative Arrangements Orders made on 21 and 30 September 2015 are available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

In summary, on 21 September 2015, the Administrative Arrangements were amended to move:

- childcare policy from the Social Services portfolio to the Education portfolio
- water policy and resources, except the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, from the Environment portfolio to the Agriculture portfolio

- cultural affairs, copyright and classification matters from the Attorney-General's portfolio to the Communications portfolio
- whole of government service delivery policy and public data policy from the Communications portfolio to the Prime Minister's portfolio, and
- renewable energy technology development from the Innovation portfolio to the Environment portfolio.

Further changes were made to the Administrative Arrangements on 30 September 2015 to:

- move aged care policy and services from the Social Services portfolio to the Health portfolio
- move Medicare provider compliance from the Human Services portfolio to the Health portfolio, and
- include Northern Australia policy and coordination in the Industry, Innovation and Science portfolio.

Minor errors and omissions from the 21 September Order were corrected on 30 September:

- omitting from the Department of Communications and the Arts 'National policy issues relating to the digital economy' which had been added to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science on 21 September
- moving 'Sewerage Agreements Acts' from the Department of the Environment to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of the transfer of most water policy matters, and
- removing references to Gov 2.0 from the descriptions of public data policy and related matters listed under the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and of whole of government information and communications technology listed under the Department of Finance.

Responsibility for environmental water use and resources relating to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) remained in the Environment portfolio, given its focus on environmental outcomes.

As Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston is responsible for assisting the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources on matters across the portfolio.

Cultural affairs, copyright and classification matters moved from the Attorney-General's portfolio to the Communications portfolio. The Prime Minister has said that bringing Communications and the Arts together again is intended to better align the funding and administration of support and incentives for our creative industries.

The description of public data policy and related matters listed under the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was amended on 30 September 2015 to ensure that the Digital Transformation Office, an executive agency in the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, takes responsibility for major government service delivery websites from the Department of Finance.