

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group: 3

Program: 1.2

Question: BE14/040

Senator McLucas asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

Mr Crosweller: Perhaps to clarify, the government has provided day labour for the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 disaster events in Queensland—for those three years right across the board. Under the NPA with Queensland, there was also a requirement to do an assessment of the day labour trial. That assessment is currently underway between the QRA, the inspectorate and the task force of the Commonwealth government. We are awaiting the outcomes of that review. As the secretary has said, that will also assist in informing the review that is being currently undertaken by the Productivity Commission.

Senator McLUCAS: So under the NPA there is an assessment of the day labour trial. When did that begin?

Mr Crosweller: I am sorry, I did not—

Senator McLUCAS: You said that under the NPA there was an assessment of the day labour trial. Was that jointly done with QRA?

Mr Crosweller: There is a requirement for an assessment, and that is currently underway between QRA, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, and the Commonwealth government.

Senator McLUCAS: When is that expected to be completed?

Mr Crosweller: We are awaiting the outcome of that, so we have again reminded the parties concerned that that review needs to be completed. That has been communicated back to Queensland quite recently.

Senator McLUCAS: I think I missed something. QRA and who are doing the assessment?

Mr Crosweller: The Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the department of infrastructure of the Commonwealth government.

Senator McLUCAS: And that is a report to whom?

Mr Crosweller: That will come back to us, to EMA. It is a joint report between Queensland and the Commonwealth. It is to come back for review and then it just forms part of the arrangements under the national partnership agreement.

Senator McLUCAS: When were you expecting that report to be provided?

Mr Crosweller: It was expected some time ago, actually, so we have reminded the parties that that work needs to be completed.

Senator McLUCAS: When you say some time ago, was it six months?

Mr Crosweller: I would have to take it on notice and get a specific time.

Senator McLUCAS: Thank you. That would be good if you could tell me when it was expected and also when you do expect it—if you understand the difference in the question.

Mr Crosweller: Yes, I do.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

A condition of the June 2012 agreement to trial the Local Government Value for Money Pricing Model was to undertake a review of the trial; the trial has subsequently been extended to June 2015. There was no specified delivery timeframe provided for the review of the trial. The review is being undertaken jointly by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the National Disaster Recovery Taskforce within the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Day labour will be considered as part of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into natural disaster funding arrangements which will provide a draft report to the public by September 2014 and a final report to the Government by December 2014.

Further questions on this matter should be directed to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development as they are responsible for the review and oversight of the trial.