

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

4 June 2013

Question: BR11

Topic: Tourism Division Head Position - Date Advertised

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

Mr Comley: When the machinery of government was announced, it was clear that some staff were going to be moving from Climate Change to DRET and some were moving to Industry and Innovation. I spoke to every SES, including Ms Lewis and asked, "Which department would you prefer to work in if there was a choice?" And I said in the context of Ms Lewis, "I have one vacancy at the band 2 level. That vacancy is in the Tourism Division. Would you be interested in that?"

Senator RONALDSON: When did the process start for the new Tourism Division head?

Mr Comley: I would have to take the precise details on notice. My recollection is that had been running for some time before the announcement of me becoming secretary. It might have been a month or two in advance of that.

Senator RONALDSON: How long before these apparent machinery of government changes was that?

Mr Comley: Again, we could take on notice the precise time, but I think that the machinery of government changes only took place two weeks after I became secretary. I think the process had been in train for at least a month, possibly two months, before the machinery of government change was announced.

Answer:

The application process opened on 1 February 2013 and closed on 18 February 2013 for the Head of Tourism Division.

The Machinery of Government change was announced on 25 March 2013.