

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010

Question: PM41a

Topic: Royal Carriage - Current Status

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Ms Beauchamp-My understanding is that we are not currently pursuing it, but I will have to take that on notice.

Senator FORSHAW-Pursuing anything at all to do with the [Mr Frecklington's royal carriage] coach.

Mr Lewis-I remember the discussions around this table at the time. I, like you, lost it from my radar screen. I do not think the department has done anything on this recently. We can take the question on notice.

Answer:

Mr Frecklington's "State Coach" is a private venture. It is not a gift from the Australian Government and had no official status. Accordingly, the Government would not expect to be involved in any hand-over of the coach to Buckingham Palace. The previous government did however, make a financial contribution of \$246,000 toward the cost of completion of the coach, and offered to provide additional funding to assist with the transportation of the finished coach to London.

Mr Frecklington did not approach the previous government about transport costs.

There has been no contact between Mr Frecklington and the government (and this department) since November 2007.