

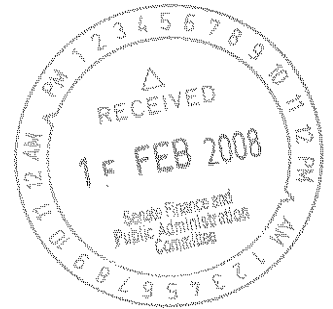
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2007-2008, 21-22 May 2007



Questions: PM 9, 10, 11

Outcome 1, Output 1.1 (Economic and industry policy)

Topic: Water Files retained in PM&C.

Direct on Notice

Senator Wong asked:

PM 9, 10, 11 (page 97, 98, 100)

What files were retained by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) when the Office of Water Resources (OWR) moved to the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW)?

Answer:

All documents created in relation to the National Plan for Water Security (the Plan) were transferred to the then Department of Environment and Water Resources at the time that OWR moved from PM&C to that Department. PM&C retained copies of a subset of the key documents for its own records. PM&C did not retain a full set of documents relating to the Plan.

In addition, documents and files created by OWR in relation to Murray-Darling Basin Contingency Planning were also transferred to the then Department of Environment and Water Resources.

PM&C retained files that OWR had created in relation to day-to-day financial administration and contract management over the period that OWR was in PM&C.