

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



Question: PM 82

Outcome 1, Output 1.1 (Economic and industry policy)

Topic: Nuclear Prohibitions

Direct on Notice

Senator Siewart asked:

1. Is the Government planning to introduce amendments to the EPBC Act and ARPANS Act to remove the nuclear prohibitions?
2. If so, when will these amendments be introduced into Parliament?

Answer:

1. Yes. On 28 April 2007, the Prime Minister announced the government's intention to repeal Commonwealth legislation prohibiting nuclear activities, including the relevant provisions of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
2. The timing of the introduction of these amendments is contingent on the detail involved in their drafting, the drafting resources allocated to the task, and the ongoing legislative schedule.