

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 Hearing 26 May - 27 May 2008



Question: PM90

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Renewable energy

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Senator Allison asked: -The facilitator of the water group, and subsequently the sustainability group as a whole, was Elizabeth Nosworthy. She, it seems, is deputy chair of the Clean Coal Technology Board and was the chair of the Stanwell Corporation. I noticed bios were not provided for the facilitators which might have revealed these sorts of connections. Do you think that was an oversight?

Mr Mrdak-I am certainly aware that the bios of the lead facilitators were published in the program. Are you talking about facilitators for substreams?

Senator ALLISON-Correct.

Mr Mrdak-No, those bios were not provided as far as I am aware. I would need to check how substream facilitators were selected or appointed into those roles.

Senator ALLISON-I must say I was surprised that it was ruled out of order for the words 'renewable energy' to be included in any of the text that went in from the whole group, given the government's own commitment to renewable energy, the renewable energy target and the fund for renewable energy development. Does that surprise you as well?

Mr Mrdak-I am certainly not aware of that. As I said, I am happy to have a look at that, but I am not aware of any such thing taking place.

Answer: a) The official Summit program was compiled by the Vice-Chancellor's Office (VCO). PM&C understands that at the time the Summit program was printed, only the lead facilitators had been confirmed and engaged.

b) There was no directive that would have excluded any topic or idea from Summit discussions and deliberations.