

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio
Department of Climate Change
Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2009

Written question reference: CC18

Outcome/Output: Outcome 1, Output Group 1.1 – Response to climate change

Topic: Project Better Place

Hansard Page: F&PA 49

Question: (Senator Abetz)

Senator ABETZ—It is still underway. That is the main thing. Thank you very much. Minister, I have two questions for you to finish off with, if I may. The *Australian* on 25 March 2009 suggested that Project Better Place, which is a business which Evan Thornley is associated with, had a meeting with you, or there had been discussions with you, regarding a launch of Better Place in Australia.

Senator Wong—I will have to take that on notice. I have to say it is not ringing any very loud bells.

Senator ABETZ—All right. It is on page 7 of the *Australian*, 25 March 2009: The meeting, attended by Better Place and government officials, noted “there have been discussions with Parliamentary Secretary Evan Thorney (sic), the Federal Minister for Climate Change, Minister Wong; regarding a launch(s) in Australia”.

I want to know whether such a meeting took place and, if so, was Mr Thornley involved in that meeting et cetera? If it does not ring any bells, by all means take it on notice.

Answer:

The Minister meets with a wide range of groups and individuals. Those meetings are generally held with the expectation of confidentiality.