

**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:** CC6

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

**Topic:** Mistaken reference to stabilisation goal

**Hansard Page:** F&PA 17

**Question:** (Senator Bob Brown)

**Senator BOB BROWN**—When did you realise that mistake had been made?

**Senator Wong**—I understand my office has been aware of it. I do not know the precise date.

**Senator BOB BROWN**—Could you find out the precise date for the committee?

**Senator Wong**—I will take that question on notice. But I say, again: there was no intention to create any false impression here—nor has it been an issue that has been raised publicly with me. We were clear about a 450 ppm stabilisation goal. If you look back over the government statements on this issue—as I said—the Prime Minister’s speech to the National Press Club the white paper all articulated the goal of 450 ppm as the stabilisation goal. You will see also that there is reference to this in the explanatory memorandum.

**Answer:**

The mistaken reference to stabilisation “by mid-century” or “by 2050” in the general text of the press releases was identified on the day of the announcement, Monday 4 May 2009, and the Department of Climate Change alerted the Minister’s Office about it by email at 5:34pm that day.

The Department notes that the mistaken reference to stabilisation by mid-century only appears in the general text of the releases, and does not appear in the detailed description of conditions. After realising the error the Department took steps to ensure that fact sheets and web materials did not repeat this mistaken reference.

The Department concluded that ensuring the reference was correct in these public materials, and in discussions with stakeholders, was sufficient and that no further public clarification was necessary.