

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2009

Question: PM28

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: GM Holden

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Senator ABETZ-This was all about an advertisement for GM Holden. I am just wondering: has Prime Minister and Cabinet undertaken any reviews or consideration of contingencies in the event that certain matters come to a negative conclusion tomorrow in the United States for GM in relation to whether they go bankrupt or not? I think it is either tomorrow or next week-it is very soon. Do we have any contingencies in place, any working group considering that unfortunate event if it were to occur?

Mr Mrdak-I will take that on notice and get you some more detail, but certainly in relation to manufacturing and offshore parents there has been consideration, and the auto industry is one of those areas.

Answer: The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is responsible for providing policy advice to the Prime Minister and has provided comprehensive advice on a wide range of issues affecting the automotive sector including: the impact of the global financial crisis; the New Car Plan for a Greener Future; US automotive restructuring proposals; and the possible impact on General Motors Holden of a Chapter 11 filing in the United States by General Motors.