

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 – Domestic Policy

Topic: Western Australia's plans to increase royalties on iron ore fines

Senator: Cormann

Question reference number: 8

Type of question: Hansard, p74, 23 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator CORMANN: Are you aware of any correspondence since the correspondence I read to you dated 10 May 2010 between the Western Australian state government and the federal government about WA plans to increase royalties, or remove the concession on royalties, for iron ore finds?

Senator Chris Evans: I am not personally aware of any such further correspondence.

Senator CORMANN: So you will take on notice whether there is such further correspondence and advise the committee?

Senator Chris Evans: Yes.

Answer:

The department did not receive any such correspondence over the period 10 May 2010 to the Western Australian Government's 2011-12 budget announcement on 19 May 2011 of its intention to increase the royalties on iron ore fines. The department is now aware of an unsigned letter from the Western Australian Premier, the Hon Colin Barnett MLA, to the Prime Minister, dated 14 January 2011, relating to royalty rates on iron ore although it does not refer to plans to raise these rates.