

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian National Audit Office

Outcome/Program: 2.1

Topic: Australia Network Audit-Cabinet papers 6 June 2011

Senator: Birmingham

Question reference number: 57

Type of question: Hansard, FPA P44, 22 May 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thank you, minister. We had that meeting and we then had the cabinet submission from DFAT that, as we know, was withdrawn. On 6 June there was a discussion at cabinet about the Australia Network tender. Was there a cabinet paper or any papers accompanying that 6 June discussion?

Mr Simpson: I would have to take that on notice. Offhand I am not sure of the level of papers before that meeting. I do not believe there were, but I would have to take it on notice to be sure.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: I do not recall seeing any referenced.

Mr Simpson: My recollection is that there were not but I would take it on notice to be absolutely positive about the response to that question.

Answer:

At a Cabinet meeting on 6 June 2011, the Government agreed that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would bring forward to Cabinet a submission on the tenders for the Australia Network, with the Government to agree the successful tenderer. The decision taken by government was without submission.