

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

Topic: Cyber White Paper

Senator: Senator Ludlam

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Question:

Senator LUDLAM: Does that mean that it has more of an economic focus than a national security focus?

Mr McKinnon: It certainly has more of a digital community confidence or security focus than a national cyber security focus, yes.

Senator LUDLAM: Are there any budgetary implications of the decision to expand its terms of reference?

Mr McKinnon: No.

Senator LUDLAM: The same number of people will be working on it?

Mr McKinnon: The Prime Minister, when she announced this indicated that BCDE would be leading some of the work with Prime Minister and Cabinet and DEEWR doing some of the other work, but effectively we already have a cross-portfolio team working in Prime Minister and Cabinet on this issue, so there are not significant ramifications.

Senator LUDLAM: We are a bit short of time. Are you able to table the membership of-what do I call it, a task force?

Mr McKinnon: I cannot table that now. We can take that on notice and give you some details.

Answer:

The Digital Economy White Paper will be written by an inter-departmental taskforce, comprising staff from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy. This taskforce will also draw on relevant expertise from other agencies, particularly:

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- the Treasury;
- the Attorney-General's Department;
- the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations;
- the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport; and
- the Department Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.