

# 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:** 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

**Topic:** Business advisory Forum Recommendation

**Senator:** Senator Payne

**Question reference number:** 4

**Type of Question:** FPA, P70

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 30 November 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator PAYNE: In terms of the BAF recommendations generally, can you give us an indication of any remaining time frames for those six streams and what consultation mechanisms are in place for the consideration of those recommendations? Further to that, what is the ongoing role of the BAF expected to be?

Mr Hazlehurst: Each of the six has its own process. I am happy to go through each of them if you would like me to, but it will take quite some time.

Senator PAYNE: You are just trying to upset my colleagues.

Mr Hazlehurst: Perhaps what is best to say about that is that the primary mechanism for engagement and consultation for a number of them is through the COAG BAF task force, which David Tune, the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Deregulation, is chairing and which the states are part of. That task force has also been consulting with business stakeholders. There are a couple of other streams of activities going on. For example, part of the stream that relates to environmental approvals is being progressed separately from the task force. There is a task force based in PM&C that is driving that work. That engagement and consultation is occurring directly with the states through that task force. Indeed, in relation to energy market reform there is also a process of engagement with the Standing Council on Energy and Resources, so consultation is occurring with the states through that mechanism.

Senator PAYNE: Perhaps it might be easier for me to ask you to respond to that in greater detail on notice.

Mr Hazlehurst: Sure. I am happy to do that.

Senator PAYNE: I think those answers are due by the end of November.

CHAIR: By 30 November.

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Senator PAYNE: By 30 November. I have a specific question in relation to the environmental duplication aspect and its time frames and processes. I assume that would be covered off in your broader answer to that question.

Mr Hazlehurst: Certainly.

**Answer:**

These reforms arose out of the first Business Advisory Forum (BAF), held in April 2012.

COAG agreed to establish the COAG BAF Taskforce on Regulatory and Competition Reform (the Taskforce) to develop the detail and timetable for the new reform agenda.

The Taskforce has held regular consultations with peak business representatives and other stakeholders, including Non-Government Organisations, since April 2012 as part of developing its advice to COAG.

A second BAF will be held on 6 December 2012, prior to the next COAG meeting.

COAG is due to consider advice from the Taskforce covering reform pathways and implementation timeframes for each of the six reform streams at its meeting on 7 December 2012.

The ongoing role for the BAF is a matter for the Prime Minister.