

CE801467L

Title: Questions in the House of Representatives, Tuesday 2 June 2015
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References: The cable has the following attachment/s -
not included - irrelevant - s 22(1)(a)(ii)
✓ HoR Abbott Cadbury.pdf
not included - irrelevant - s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

[REDACTED]

Questions Without Notice in the House of Representatives on Tuesday 2 June 2015

The Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, was asked a question from Mr Tony Burke, Member for Watson (Labor), regarding Cabinet.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, was asked a question from Mr Andrew Wilkie, Member for Denison (Independent), regarding Tasmania: Economy (Cadbury).

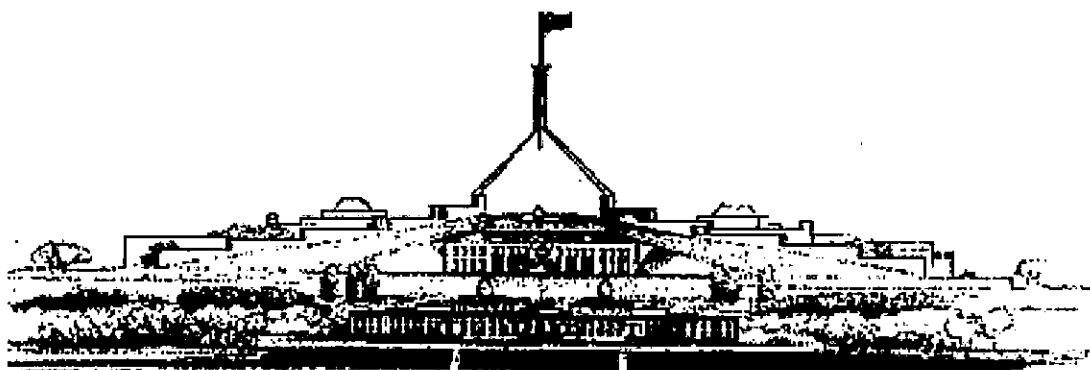
The Minister for Justice, Assisting the Prime Minister on Counter-Terrorism, the Hon Michael Keenan, was asked a question from Mrs Karen McNamara, Member for Dobell (Lib), regarding National Security.

The transcripts are attached.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROOF

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Tasmania: Economy

QUESTION

Tuesday, 2 June 2015

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTION

Date Tuesday, 2 June 2015
Page 24
Questioner Wilkie, Andrew, MP
Speaker

Source House
Proof Yes
Responder Abbott, Tony, MP
Question No.

Tasmania: Economy

Tasmania: Economy

Mr WILKIE (Denison) (14:23): My question is to the Prime Minister. Prime Minister, the \$16 million promised to Cadbury was because of the desperate need for economic stimulus in Glenorchy. Now that Cadbury has sacked 80 staff, what is the government doing to help them? Will you commit to spend the \$16 million in Glenorchy where the stimulus is needed more than ever? Do you agree, Prime Minister, that to spend the money elsewhere would make it a political slush fund?

Mr ABBOTT (Warringah—Prime Minister) (14:23): I do thank the member for Denison for his question. Like the member for Denison, I am very disappointed that the Cadbury investment did not go ahead. It was quite a large investment by Cadbury that the government was going to assist to the tune of \$16 million, which was an investment in the tourism infrastructure side of that particular investment. So, like the member for Denison, I am disappointed that Cadbury decided not to go ahead. The member for Bass, the member for Braddon and the member for Lyons are all equally disappointed that this particular investment did not go ahead. I am pleased to say that a lot of investment in Tasmania is going ahead. This government, for instance, is investing an additional \$200 million in the Freight Equalisation Scheme to boost the exports of Tasmania, not just to the mainland but beyond on the mainland, to the wider world. This government is investing \$60 million in new irrigation infrastructure in northern Tasmania, particularly water storages, because this government is determined to end the dam phobia which has afflicted our country everywhere, including in Tasmania.

Mr Burke: We've got dams in Tasmania—

Mr ABBOTT: I hear some bellowing opposite about Midlands. We are building the Midland Highway—\$400 million in that too. Yes, it is a pity that Cadbury are not going ahead with that particular investment, but, as the members for Braddon, Lyons and Bass keep telling me, a lot of good things are happening in Tasmania right now. Tasmania is not just a great place to live and a great place to visit; it is becoming a great place to work, a great place to employ and a great place to invest. It is high time that Australia had—

The **SPEAKER:** The Prime Minister will resume his seat. The member for Denison on a point of order. The Prime Minister has concluded his answer.



Senator Jacqui Lambie Senator for Tasmania

24 July 2015

The Hon. Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Employment
136 Davey St
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Senator Abetz,

Re: Stop holding the Cadbury funds for ransom

The Burnie International is a successful and renowned event that generates \$850,000 into the local economy on a yearly basis. If you add that up over the last 13 years of the tournament running, that figure equates to around 11 million dollars that generates back into the State economy.

Given the current condition of the courts, surface reconstruction is urgently needed to bring the facility up to the standard that is required by Tennis Australia and the men and women's International bodies. If this is not done then the Burnie International will be cancelled and potentially allocated to another State.

The cost of the court reconstruction is \$1.1 million with \$670K being funded by the Burnie Tennis Club, Burnie Council, Tennis Australia and the State Government. That leaves \$430K which I believe should come out of the \$15 million unallocated Cadbury pool.

My reasons why are listed below;

- We will need these courts ready for action for the Masters games to be held in the North & Northwest in 2017
- The Masters games alone will generate an additional \$9 million into the economy
- The Burnie International is the biggest annual sporting event in Northwest Tasmania
- There are also 8 additional tournaments throughout the year held at Burnie Tennis Club which generate further revenue to the local community
- The Burnie International gives Tasmanians access to mainland events that they may not have the opportunity to attend
- Live streamed all around the World it is a great way to promote Tasmania

I urge you to act upon this now as the closing date is **Friday 31st July** and then Tennis Australia will have no other option but to cancel this event. Another significant loss to the community, one that can be easily avoided.

If the funding is granted then this event will remain with Burnie for an additional 5 years – generating a further \$4.5 million into the State economy. The amount we are asking for is only 10% of what the State will make back in revenue.

You have in your hands \$15 million of Cadbury funds which you are holding for ransom and there is no acceptable reason for you to keep this money. Release it and keep the Burnie International in Tasmania's portfolio.

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**Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania**

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JL'.

Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania

Cc The Hon. Tony Abbott, Prime Minister
The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Warren Truss, Deputy Prime Minister
The Hon. Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania

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