

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: 1.8

Question No. SBE16/101

Senator Rice asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2016:

Has the department received any requests or approaches of any kind on behalf of Allied Natural Wood Exports, owners of the Eden woodchip mill for financial or other assistance following damage to the chipmill jetty and loader in June 2016 storms?

If so, what was the nature of the request and what was the department's response?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

States and territories have primary responsibility for responding to natural disasters, including determining the type of relief and recovery assistance provided to affected communities.

On 17 June 2016, the department received a copy of a letter from the former Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, Dr Peter Hendy, to the Minister for Justice and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Counter-Terrorism, the Hon Michael Keenan MP, on behalf of Allied Natural Wood Exports (ANWE), regarding the impact of storm damage to ANWE's export port facility.

In his letter, Dr Hendy advised that ANWE had written to the NSW Government requesting financial assistance to help with short-term costs, which would then be repaid when exports to long-term contracted customers resumed, and expressed support for that application.

The department did not respond to Dr Hendy's letter.