

22/10/2014

Senator LEYONHJELM: Has Treasury recently been engaged in any work on aviation or shipping cabotage restrictions and options to reduce them?

Mr Legg: We are aware that work has been done elsewhere in the Public Service on these issues and we have contributed a briefing, if you like, but it has not been a major part of our work over the last little period.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Amongst that, have you reviewed work on the experience of reduced aviation cabotage with restrictions within Europe and the US?

Mr Legg: No, we have not.

Senator LEYONHJELM: You have not looked at that at all.

Mr Legg: This is an issue which the prime carriage of rests in another department.

Senator LEYONHJELM: I might leave it there; thank you.

24/02/2015

Senator LEYONHJELM: I will be much quicker. At the last estimates I asked Treasury about the issue of aviation or shipping cabotage restrictions and options to reduce them. I was told that Treasury is aware that work has been done elsewhere in the public service on these issues and 'we have contributed a briefing, if you like'—those are Treasury's words. Will your department release documents it has worked on in the past year on aviation cabotage restrictions and options to reduce restrictions?

Mr Mrdak : I am not aware of any specific work that we have done on aviation cabotage in that form. There have been proposals—for instance, our response to the Harper competition review. As indicated, I am happy to provide you with that material—our submission to the Harper review—but I am not aware of any specific proposals that we have worked on in relation to aviation cabotage beyond that competition review.

Senator LEYONHJELM: I am perplexed. Treasury said somebody did and I assumed it was you.

Mr Mrdak : We certainly did provide a submission to the Harper competition review, which I am very happy to provide you, which sets out our comments in relation to the proposal in the competition review to look at aviation cabotage.

Senator LEYONHJELM: I would like to see it.

Mr Mrdak : Certainly. I am happy to provide that.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Thank you very much.

25/02/2015

Senator LEYONHJELM: I have a question on cabotage. At the last estimates in November I raised the issue of aviation or shipping cabotage restrictions and options to reduce them. I was told by Mr Legg that the Treasury is 'aware that work has been done elsewhere in the Public Service on those issues and we have contributed a briefing'. I asked the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development yesterday about this and he advised that they were not aware of any work done other than a submission to the competition review, the Harper review. Are you able to provide to the committee your contribution to this issue of aviation and shipping cabotage?

Mr Ray: To the extent that we may have done work on that question, it would be advice to the government. I am happy to take it on notice to see if we have provided advice and whether the Treasurer is happy to provide it.

Senator LEYONHJELM: I am relying on Mr Legg's comment to that effect, but I understand that you did not make that statement.

Mr Ray: I did not. It would be advice to government, were we to have done anything.

Senator LEYONHJELM: If you can take that on notice.

Mr Ray: Yes, I am happy to.