

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: International Trade Remedies Forum Meetings

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2014, page 41-42)

QUESTION No.: BI-21

Senator Ronaldson: The ITRF is under consideration from the government and there will be announcements made in due course.

Senator CARR: Sorry, you were saying that the work of the—

Senator Ronaldson: I said that all these matters, including the ITRF, are under consideration by the government and there will be announcements made in due course.

Senator CARR: Considerations for what purpose—to cease their activity? Why would that require the forum to stop working?

Senator Ronaldson: Senator, how can you possibly—

Senator CARR: None of the groups have met.

Senator Ronaldson: take my comment from there, and then the implication is that the committee will not continue? Why would you do that, given that is not what I said? I said—

CHAIR: This bloke is as thick as two short planks.

Senator Ronaldson: that this is under consideration, and you have said, 'What—why? Are you going to dump it?' That is not what I said at all. I said it is under consideration.

Senator CARR: Why have these groups not met?

Senator Ronaldson: I will take that matter on notice. But what I am saying to is that this issue is under consideration and there will be announcements made by the government during the year, including our election commitments.

Senator CARR: Has the government instructed the forum not to meet?

Ms Beauchamp: No, and a date has not been established for the next meeting.

Senator KIM CARR: Has there been any advice issued to any of the working groups not to meet?

Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator CARR: You will take that on notice as well. Thank you. Can I ask you: when can we expect the forum to meet?

Senator Ronaldson: I said to you before, these matters are under consideration by the government and the government will make announcements in the fullness of time. I do not think there is anything else that can be added by myself or the secretary in relation to that matter.

ANSWER

Since its establishment in 2011, the International Trade Remedies Forum (ITRF) has established five working groups addressing the following topics: Market Situation, Close Processed Agricultural Goods, Import Data, Electronic Public Record and Stronger Compliance. The Market Situation Working Group and the Close Processed Agricultural Working Group both concluded in 2011, with separate reports to Government (available on the Anti-Dumping Commission's website: www.adcommission.gov.au/aboutus/ITRFWorkingGroupreports.asp). The Import Data Working Group reported its findings to the ITRF meeting conducted in May 2012.

The Electronic Public Record Working Group and Stronger Compliance Working Group have had no instruction from Government not to meet. Notwithstanding this, membership of the ITRF's working groups has generally been comprised of members of the ITRF - the appointment of ITRF members is a matter for the Minister (pursuant to s269ZZYE of the *Customs Act 1901*). No Working Group meetings have been convened until membership of the ITRF has been determined.