

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Budget Estimates
4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Aluminium cladding

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2014, page 24)

QUESTION No.: BI-34

Senator KIM CARR: The question comes back to how you get a product on the prohibited imports list, and that requires this department, at the Commonwealth level, to take action. That is why I am raising the matter. A deliberative action has to be taken in this department.

Ms Beauchamp: I do not think it is just our department alone. Obviously these things come through fair trading departments from states and territories and the ACCC for products that may not meet consumer safety requirements and the like. I think, as has been said previously, the previous parl sec held a roundtable on this issue. The parliamentary secretary has written out to her counterparts in the states and territories. I think there is a commitment to look at how this might be addressed in a more whole of government way, and indeed with the states and territories as to what they need to do to address nonconforming products.

Senator KIM CARR: I take it that it has not gone to COAG at all?

Mr Chesworth: Not that I am aware of.

Ms Beauchamp: This has not gone to COAG. The Building Ministers' Forum—

Senator KIM CARR: That is the only intergovernment agency to raise this matter in?

Mr Chesworth: That is correct.

Senator KIM CARR: You have not raised it as such?

Ms Beauchamp: The Building Ministers' Forum involves states and territories. It does not sit under the COAG framework.

Senator KIM CARR: I understand that. Have you raised it through any other interstate body?

Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware it has been raised through the ACCC and fair trading departments and the like.

ANSWER

The issue of non-conforming building products was discussed at the Building Ministers' Forum (BMF) on 30 May 2014, and will be raised again at the next BMF on 31 July 2015.

The ACCC advises that the issue has also been considered by the Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs, which consists of Commonwealth, State, Territory and New Zealand Ministers responsible for fair trading and consumer protection laws.