

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Guilin Group visit

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 69)

QUESTION No.: BI-58

Senator XENOPHON: Last time, I referred to Olex Australia's allegations of the dumping of certain PVC flat electric cables exported from China. That is case No. 271, an investigation initiated under anti-dumping notice number 2014/118. I would like to talk about the trend within the commission to place verification visit reports on the public record only days before publishing a statement of the essential facts. Specifically, I refer to the Anti-Dumping Commission's investigation of Olex Australia's allegations of dumping. The commission issued a statement of essential facts, a SEF, in relation to the investigation on 25 May 2015 and the proposed recommendation to the minister was to terminate the investigation for negligible dumping. Is that correct?

Mr Sexton: That is correct. A statement of essential facts was placed on the public record on 25 May.

Senator XENOPHON: I understand that interested parties have only 20 days to respond to the statement of essential facts.

Mr Sexton: That is correct.

Senator XENOPHON: When did the officers of the Anti-Dumping Commission conclude their visit to allegedly the largest Chinese exporter of electrical cable to Australia, the Guilin Group in China?

Mr Sexton: I do not have a particular date in front of me.

Senator XENOPHON: I suggest it was 23 March 2015.

Mr Sexton: I cannot confirm that.

Senator Ronaldson: We will take that on notice.

Senator XENOPHON: I am just trying to help you, Minister, as always.

Mr Sexton: I am new to the commission—I have only been there seven weeks— so that sort of information I do not have in front of me.

Senator XENOPHON: I am not having a go at you. I am interested in some systemic issues that are very concerning. If you assume that the visit took place on 23 March 2015—I believe my information is quite reliable; and, if anyone wants to contradict it, feel free to chip in—

Senator Ronaldson: That is the trouble—I do not think we can. But let's see what happens anyway.

Senator XENOPHON: I am suggesting to you, Minister, that the date was 23 March 2015, when the officers concluded their visit. I understand that the officers placed a report of that visit on the public record on 25 May 2015, which is two months after concluding the visit and the same day the commission placed a statement of essential facts on the public record.

Mr Sexton: The information I have is that that visit report was placed on the public record on 15 May.

Senator XENOPHON: Can you take that on notice.

Mr Sexton: I can confirm that for you.

ANSWER

The visit to the Guilin Group in China occurred 19, 20 and 23 March 2015.

The visit report for the Guilin Group was placed on the public record on 25 May 2015. The delay between the conclusion of the visit and publication of the visit report was due to the complex assessment required to determine the arm's length nature of sales transactions between the importer and exporter.