

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: CEFC

Question: BET 440-443

Topic: Departmental Dispute Resolution

Reference: written - 17 June 2015

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

440. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
441. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
- a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 - b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 - c) When the contract with the firm commenced.
 - d) When the contract with the firm will expire.
 - e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 - f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.
442. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
443. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
- a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 - b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 - c) When the contract with the firm commenced.
 - d) When the contract with the firm will expire.
 - e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 - f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.

Answer:

The answers to the honourable Senator's questions are as follows:

440. The CEFC engages staff under its own enabling legislation - the *Clean Energy Finance Corporation Act 2012* - and is not an agency under the *Public Service Act 1999*:
- Disputes between CEFC staff internally are dealt with internally via well-established policies and procedures. Mediation may or may not be a part of dispute resolution depending on the nature of the dispute.
 - The CEFC enjoys cordial professional relationship with all Departments and agencies with whom it has had contact. The CEFC does not have a procedure for disputes involving external parties, specifically between:
 - a) departmental staff, or

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- b) between CEFC staff and departmental staff, or
- c) between CEFC staff and staff of other agencies.

441. No.

a) to f) Not applicable.

442. The CEFC engages staff under its own enabling legislation - the *Clean Energy Finance Corporation Act 2012* - and is not an agency under the *Public Service Act 1999*:

- Code of conduct violations are dealt with internally via well-established policies and procedures. Mediation may or may not be a part of handling code of conduct violations, depending on the nature of the dispute.
- The CEFC enjoys cordial professional relationship with all Departments and agencies with whom it has had contact. The CEFC does not have a procedure for code of conduct violations by departmental staff, or by staff of other agencies.

443. No.

a) to f) Not applicable.