

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 875-877

Topic: Emergency Safeguards - Confidentiality

Written: 28 November 2013

Senator MCKENZIE asked:

- 875. At the Productivity Commission's public hearing into SPC Ardmona's application for emergency safeguards, SPC Ardmona raised concerns about breaches of confidentiality with the information they provided. How did this happen?
- 876. What response has SPC Ardmona received to the concerns raised?
- 877. Can SPC Ardmona be assured that any information they provide to the Productivity Commission will be treated in confidence?

Answer:

- 875. The Commission respects the provision of confidential data and has taken care not to publish any confidential numbers provided by SPC Ardmona. In the accelerated reports some of the data (such as production) were presented in ways that preserved their confidentiality, including by removing values and units of measurement from the vertical axis of charts, reporting data in percentage changes and reporting ratios in index form. These 'confidentialised' data generally supported SPC Ardmona's claims regarding injury.
- 876. The Chairman of the Productivity Commission, Peter Harris, wrote to SPC Ardmona on 9 December 2013 in response to its concerns about confidentiality.
- 877. Yes, as was the case for the accelerated reports.