

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: SBT 4322

Topic: Foreign Investment - threshold for agricultural land and agribusiness

Reference: Hansard page no. 3-4 - 22 October 2014

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

Senator WONG: I am just actually trying to understand. What is the vehicle for the consultation with the states? Is there a working group of state officials, or is it just done bilaterally?

Ms Gerathy: At the moment it is being done bilaterally between us and the states. There is obviously communication via email and phone calls and just getting feedback from the states about what might or might not be possible.

Senator WONG: Have all states been consulted to date?

Ms Gerathy: Yes.

Senator WONG: When did this consultation process start?

Ms Gerathy: A couple of months ago.

Senator WONG: About two months ago?

Ms Gerathy: June.

Senator WONG: Okay. Prior to that, was there any consultation that you are aware of with the states on the threshold issue?

Ms Gerathy: I am going to say I think not, but—

Senator WONG: You can add to it on notice, if there is an issue. That is fine. Just to recap: prior to June—to your knowledge, and you will check—there was not any consultation with the states. The government has made a decision subsequently to consult with the states in relation to both the register and the threshold. Was there any consultation with the states prior to June on the register, or was that covered in your previous answer?

Ms Gerathy: I think there may have been, but I just do not know for sure at the moment.

Senator WONG: I am happy for you to take that on notice. Is that what that nod was?

Ms Gerathy: Yes.

Answer:

Please refer to the answer to question SBT 4324.