

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000178

Senator Cameron asked on 02 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 53

Question

FWO - Communication with the FWBC

Senator CAMERON: I want to come to the issue of resources. Before I do that, I have one question before I forget. On the Chia Tung matter, did you have any engagement with the fair work building commission on that matter?

Mr Campbell: I believe there was some communication at the start of that matter just confirming that we were looking into it.

Senator CAMERON: So how did that come about? What was the fair work building commission's involvement with you?

Mr Campbell: I am not quite sure. I suppose the interest would have been that there was some construction aspect to this work. The CFMEU had an interest in it. The CFMEU might have raised it with the FWBC; I am not sure. But there were some communications between our offices just saying, 'Just so you know, we are looking into this matter in case it is raised by someone.'

Senator CAMERON: Who instigated the correspondence?

Mr Campbell: I cannot remember off the top of my head which way it came, but I can find out for you. It may have been that we called someone in FWBC to let them know that we were looking into it.

Senator CAMERON: Can you get me the dates when you communicated with the fair work building commission on this matter?

Mr Campbell: Sure.

Senator CAMERON: Can you also advise how many times you communicated and what the issues were?

Mr Campbell: I will take the question on notice.

Answer

On 27 January 2015, Fair Work Ombudsman inspectors met with FWBC inspectors to discuss the Chia Tung investigation.

On 28 January 2015, the Fair Work Ombudsman conducted the site visit at Bomaderry, NSW to investigate allegations of contraventions of the Fair Work Act 2009. FWBC conducted a site visit at the same time in relation to Right of Entry matters.

From late January through March 2015, the Fair Work Ombudsman had ongoing dialogue with the FWBC regarding intelligence held by FWBC on Chia Tung, contact details of the site owner at Narrabri and the CFMEU press release.