



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600  
TEL: (02) 6277 3350  
FAX: (02) 6277 3199  
E-mail: clerk.sen@aph.gov.au

CLERK OF THE SENATE

hl.let.15030

22 May 2006

Mr Alistair Sands  
Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Sands

**ESTIMATES HEARING, 22 MAY 2006  
PURCHASE OF PAPER**

A question was asked by Senator Faulkner at today's estimates hearing on the change of paper used by the Senate Department.

The Senate Printing Unit recently completed an evaluation of paper used by the department to comply with its purchasing responsibilities under the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. Guidance was also provided by Department of the Environment and Heritage through their Environmental Purchasing Check List for paper and cardboards. Five main performance indicators were assessed: price, performance, recycled content, environmental impact and archival qualities.

The department also regularly reviews its paper supplier due to fluctuations in cost based on international exchange rates.

As a result of the evaluation:

- *UPM Office* copy paper (made in Germany) will be used for documents requiring archival properties for long term storage (in excess of 100 years)
- *Evolve Office* copy paper (made in the United Kingdom) will be used for general office use.

The main difference between Australian and European paper is cost and the environmental impact of the manufacturing process.

Yours sincerely

  
(Harry Evans)