

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2005-2006, 31 October 2005

Question: PM 18

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Tasmanian Forests Package – Skills and Training Measure

Hansard Page: F&PA 60

Senator Milne asked: On the same matter, what was the date on which either Mr Maclean or Mr O'Connor from the CFMEU was informed that the \$4 million had been confirmed as part of the package? Did the Prime Minister and Cabinet inform them? If so, on what date?

Answer: A \$4 million programme to enhance skills and training in the forests and forests products sector was included as a part of the government's 'A Sustainable Future for Tasmania' election commitment announced on 6 October 2004. Stakeholders, including the timber industries, timber communities and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union were advised this initiative was part of that package on 6 October 2004, prior to its announcement. The measure was subsequently confirmed as part of the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement. Officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet met with a range of stakeholders including the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union on 2 November 2004 to discuss the overall development of the 'A Sustainable Future for Tasmania' election commitments.