

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Super Trawler

Senator: Senator the Hon Ronaldson

Question reference number: 24

Type of Question: FPA, P106

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RONALDSON: It was a twofold question: one part was on legal advice; otherwise, it was on the management of that particular issue at that particular time in relation to what could be done to reduce the capacity of the Abel Tasman to trawl.

Ms Taylor: On your first question: PM&C was not involved in the procurement of legal advice for Minister Burke. That question would have been dealt with by his department.

Senator RONALDSON: Did you see the legal advice?

Ms Taylor: Can I take that on notice? I believe I have seen that legal advice, but I just need to clarify.

Senator RONALDSON: Can I ask you then: was further legal advice sought?

Minister Burke initially just wanted to potentially hinder its operations, it seemed, by putting conditions on it. Was further legal advice obtained, because Minister Burke indicated initially that indeed he did not have the powers to remove the government's permission for this trawler to operate? Was a second set of legal advice obtained in relation to that particular aspect, and was PM&C involved in that?

Ms Taylor: I do not know the answer to that question. That question is best put to the environment department.

Senator RONALDSON: You will take on notice the first question, will you, about the legal advice?

Ms Taylor: Yes, I will take that on notice.

Answer: Yes.