

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0191) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

Enterprise migration agreements: I refer to the answer given to AE12/0158 which states “a small minority of industry stakeholders have argued that EMAs should be available with a lower peak workforce of 1000”. What is the definition of a small minority?

Answer:

During the 2010 Enterprise Migration Agreement (EMA) Roundtable Consultations, attendees (including representatives from industry peak bodies, resource sector businesses, unions, Australian Government and state and territory government agencies) discussed the eligibility requirements for the EMA program. This included defining the thresholds for capital expenditure and peak workforce for a project to reach ‘mega’ status.

Stakeholders expressed a range of views before Government determined the project eligibility requirements. The majority of the stakeholders were of the view that the proposed thresholds are either right or should be higher. Views differed between jurisdictions and industries. The ‘small minority’ of stakeholders, therefore, refers to the stakeholders that did not agree initially to the proposed thresholds and argued that it should be lower.