

**Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2006

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question No:** CPD01

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Policy Division

**Topic:** CDDA guidelines – legal advice to Mr Dalton

**Hansard Page:** 36 (31/10/2006)

**Senator O'Brien asked:** No, the claimant's own advice and the Commonwealth's own advice is one thing. Advice which is provided to the supposedly independent adjudicator, which is available to one side and not the other, would be concerning. I am sure Marnic's lawyers will be concerned about that. I am. I think the matter should be before the committee. If it is advice as to the meaning of the guidelines, surely that can only assist the process.

**Ms Hewitt**—I will certainly reflect further on that. I will advise you and the committee if we think it would be appropriate. But I feel that we need to reflect carefully on this matter and think about its implications for the scheme generally and perhaps consult the department of finance, because I agree with Mr Grant that it is really the department of finance that is responsible.

**Senator O'BRIEN**—The department of finance are on today. I cannot be in two places at once and ask the same questions.

**Ms Hewitt**—I cannot resolve that for you either, Senator—

**Senator O'BRIEN**—I know you cannot.

**Ms Hewitt**—but it is possible for us to convey a request on behalf of the committee to the department. We could do that, and we could seek the views of our own legal advisers on whether it is appropriate for that information to be shared. I am happy to do that and get back to you in a timely way.

**Answer:**

The response to this question is attached.

**[CPD 01 attachments A and B]**

Please provide an estimation of hours spent on QON response for each officer involved.

<b>Officer</b>	<b>DAFF Level</b>	<b>Hours spent on QON response</b>
<b>A</b>		
<b>B</b>		
<b>C</b>		
<b>D</b>		