



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

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28 March 2003

Inquiry into a funding matter under the Dairy Regional Assistance Program

On 27 March the Senate referred to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for inquiry and report by 30 June 2003:

The circumstances surrounding the application, approval and expenditure of funding under the Dairy Regional Assistance Program (DRAP) for the construction of a new building and the installation of additional machinery at the Moruya Steel Profiling Plant in New South Wales in 2001-2002.

Key areas of interest for the inquiry include:

- The administration of guidelines for funding applications under DRAP, particularly in relation to activities that are excluded under DRAP and the question of retrospectivity;
- The timing of the application for funding under DRAP, the application for building approval with the Eurobodalla Shire Council and the construction and installation of plant and sewerage at the North Moruya Industrial Estate; and
- The role of stakeholders involved in the matter.

The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at public hearings. Submissions become committee documents on receipt and can be made public only after a decision by the Committee. Persons making submissions can not release them without advice from the secretariat that the permission of the committee has been granted.

All communications with the Committee and its Secretariat are protected by parliamentary privilege. The Committee is keen to get as much material as possible on the public record. However, there is provision for the Committee to consider requests that it receive information on a confidential basis. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but their unauthorised release is not. As indicated above, people making submissions must not disclose them without the prior approval of the Committee as communicated by the secretariat.

Details on the inquiry and other explanatory material, the terms of reference and submission guidelines, are available on the Committee's web site, http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_fpa, or by the Committee Secretary Alistair Sands on 02 6277 3530.

The closing date for submissions is **28 April 2003**. The Committee prefers submissions to be provided in electronic form on floppy disc or e-mailed to fpa.sen@aph.gov.au. Alternatively, submissions may be faxed or posted. If you are likely to experience any difficulty meeting the deadline please contact the secretariat.

Alistair Sands
Secretary

