

## Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Inquiry into the provisions of the Customs Amendment Legislation (Border Compliance and Other Measures) Bill 2006

### Question 1 (Mr Andrew Hudson – Law Council of Australia - p.18, *Proof Hansard*)

**Senator LUDWIG**—I will rephrase the question: how long have you been chair?

**Mr Hudson**—No, I was the chair from 2001. That was the last time I was the chair. I have not been the chair since late 2002.

**CHAIR**—Mr Hudson is representing the committee today as a former chair.

**Senator LUDWIG**—When were you last consulted?

**Mr Hudson**—The Law Council?

**Senator LUDWIG**—Yes.

**Mr Hudson**—In respect of the—

**Senator LUDWIG**—In respect of the latest iteration of the accredited client program.

**Mr Hudson**—As found in this bill, for example?

**Senator LUDWIG**—Yes. Even limited to this bill.

**Mr Hudson**—I am not aware of any negotiation or consultation with the Law Council in respect of this bill—but then we are merely humble lawyers and not directly involved in the border clearance industry. We merely try to help where we can.

**CHAIR**—Indeed.

**Senator MASON**—You are there to serve, Mr Hudson?

**Mr Hudson**—Yes, indeed. I am a modest servant of the industry. The Law Council has not been involved in direct discussions. Recently there have been two reviews conducted in respect of the CMR process. The Law Council has been given an opportunity to have discussions in respect of both of the reviews by the Australian National Audit Office and Booz Allen Hamilton. In part, that touched very briefly on the accredited client program, but that to my knowledge is probably the last. I can certainly ask both subsequent chairs to determine whether there was any individual consultation.

**Senator LUDWIG**—If it does not put you to too much inconvenience

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### Answer

I have consulted with my 2 subsequent chairs of the LCA Committee. Both have confirmed that to their knowledge, the LCA Committee was never consulted by Customs on the ACP following the introduction of the Trade Modernisation Legislation and that there was only brief reference in passing to the ACP at the Customs National Consultative Committee.

Kind Regards

Andrew Hudson  
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