

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 141
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: The Australian Government ICT Sustainability Plan 2010-15 - CFMEU Correspondence
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 30 October 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

1. I have correspondence with me that suggests the CFMEU presented to Government the fact that Australian Paper (including its submission to the procurement inquiry) and its workers thought it was desirable to keep the procurement connected policies of both the national waste policy and the ICT sustainability plan because of their view it was important to jobs in the paper industry- this representation was made shortly after the commission of audit recommended the abolition of all procurement connected policies in May 2014.

It would appear from the paper trail that the correspondence was referred by Gippsland MP Darren Chester, to former Special Minister of State Senator Ronaldson who in turn took the matter up with Finance Minister Cormann.

A letter from Minister Cormann to Minister Chester states:

“Minister Hunt has responsibility for the National Waste Policy and the ICT Sustainability Policy. I intend to consult with Minister Hunt in relation to the future of those policies”

Can we take from your answer from previous Estimates that the representations made were never referred to the Department by Minister Hunt or elsewhere?

If so, does the Department know if this was because the promised intended consultations between Ministers Cormann and Hunt about the future of the policies did not occur?

Alternatively then did those consultations occur but were the representation which came from industry and stakeholders ignored?

To what extent was the department involved in these consultations between Ministers Cormann and Hunt?

Answer:

The Department was not involved in consultation between Ministers.