

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Submission to finance on procurement of motor vehicles

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 57-58)

QUESTION No.: BI-34

Senator KIM CARR: I am asking you specifically and following up my colleague's comments on a procurement issue. Does this department have a view—obviously, it is a Department of Finance question—about the change in policy that will now come about because of the position of particularly Toyota and General Motors because of the change in the procurement policy for motor vehicles for the public service for all government agencies?

Mr Lawson: I take it you are referring to, in October, there will be the cessation of manufacturing of automobiles in Australia.

Senator KIM CARR: That is right, Mr Lawson. I think you are well aware of what I am talking about.

Mr Lawson: In those circumstances, it does not seem—

Senator KIM CARR: Have you got a position?

Mr Lawson: I am not aware that we have, but I would need to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Why haven't you got a position?

Senator Sinodinos: We are going to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: I am particularly concerned about those manufacturers that have R&D centres here that are currently on the preferred tenderers' list for motor vehicles, and whether or not action will be taken to preserve their preferred standing. For instance, the Ford Motor Company will have 2,000 employees here in this country. It will be the largest single employer in the motor industry. They have very large R&D centres in Broadmeadows and in Geelong. General Motors will have a very significant R&D presence here. Will there be any consideration of that in terms of the tendering arrangements for motor vehicles, come post-October arrangements? I understand those considerations are underway right now, and I am quite surprised that the industry department would not have made a submission on that matter.

Senator Sinodinos: That is a matter between us and the Department of Finance.

Senator KIM CARR: Have you made a submission? That is my question.

Ms Beauchamp: Can I take that on notice, and clarify exactly what we have put into the process with the Department of Finance.

Senator KIM CARR: Thank you.

ANSWER

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Department of Finance have held numerous discussions regarding the Commonwealth Government's future Fleet Vehicle Selection Policy. No formal submission has been made to the Department of Finance which has policy responsibility for the Fleet Vehicle Selection Policy.