

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 878-881

Topic: Emergency Safeguards – Friends of Safeguards

Written: 28 November 2013

Senator MCKENZIE asked:

- 878. Why was SPC Ardmona not informed about the 'Friends of Safeguards Procedures Group of WTO members'?
- 879. How did this group influence the outcome of the Productivity Commission's findings?
- 880. Why was SPC Ardmona not informed of the implications during their meeting with the Commission?
- 881. What are the implications of this membership on the assessment of their case?

Answer:

- 878. Australia's membership of the 'Friends of Safeguards Procedures' group had no bearing on the Commission's assessment of the case for provisional safeguards.
As such, there was no need to inform any interested party of the existence of this group.
- 879. Australia's membership of the 'Friends of Safeguards Procedures' group had no bearing on the Commission's assessment of the case for provisional safeguards.
- 880. There were no 'implications' of Australia's membership of Friends of Safeguards Procedures to discuss with SPC Ardmona.
- 881. Australia's membership of the 'Friends of Safeguards Procedures' group had no implications for the safeguards inquiries. It does not imply that higher standards are required for safeguards investigations than that required under the WTO Agreement on Safeguards.