

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Program:** 1.8 Australian Government Disaster Financial Support Payments

**Question No. AE17/136**

**Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 24 March 2017:**

CHAIR: Senator Dodson, we might hold there and come back to you if you have any other questions. Can I just ask about NDRRA. You may be aware that I attended a meeting between the minister, the head of the Local Government Association of Queensland and an officer of that association in relation to what I might refer to as the 'plant and equipment' issue, following the conclusion of the national partnership agreement in, I think, 2013. I am sure the minister's office would have raised it with you, but I am just wondering if you have the response to the issue. The meeting was told that the Queensland Reconstruction Authority received an advice from Emergency Management Australia—I do not have my notes in front of me, but I think it was in October 2014—indicating that plant and equipment would no longer be eligible. The suggestion is that that advice did not have a date on it. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority immediately wrote back to Emergency Management Australia seeking clarity as to when this new arrangement would start. The information given to me was that, from memory, it was not answered for something like 18 months. First of all, are you aware of those comments, and, if so, can you give me an answer to them?

Mr Crossweller: We have been briefed on your meeting with your Queensland colleagues. In relation to the letter that you raised, we are still searching the files to clarify that issue, so we will take that specific issue on notice.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Local Government Association of Queensland confirmed that the correspondence referred to was draft guidance in relation to the eligibility of plant and equipment costs. Following consultation with states, finalised guidance in relation to the eligibility of plant and equipment costs was provided to states on 27 March 2014.