

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

Question No: 198
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Policy and Communications Division
Topic: Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 04 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

1. Have any representatives from your Department attending any of the TPPA negotiating rounds?
 - a. If Yes how many and what classification level are they?
2. Does the Department receive briefings or updates from DFAT on the negotiations?
3. Does the Department attend a regular meeting such as an Inter Departmental Committee on the TPPA?
4. What staffing resources does your Department provide for your work on the TPPA?
5. Has the Department briefed the Minister on the negotiations and possible implications for the Department and the Minister if the agreement is agreed?
6. Can you provide dates of when these briefings took place or were provided to the Minister?
7. Has there been any discussion with your state counterparts over the potential impact of the TPPA?
8. Has the Department run a consultation process with stakeholders about potential implications of the TPPA?
 - a. If yes where and when did these consultations takes place?
 - b. which stakeholders were invited?
 - c. which stakeholders attended?

Answer:

1. Yes
 - 1a. The Department has had officers ranging from Director (EL2) to APS 6 level attend 19 negotiating rounds of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. Two staff are currently allocated to manage the Department's engagement with the TPP negotiating team in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. These officers call on technical specialists and policy officers across the Department for advice and analysis, depending on the issue under negotiation. As such, up to a dozen officers across the Department may be considering an issue under the TPP Agreement at any one point in time. At other times, it may only be one officer.
5. Yes

6. The Department provided briefing on the TPP to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP on: 18 October 2013, 5 December 2013, 16 December 2013, 20 December 2013, 20 February 2014 and 5 March 2014. Briefing was also provided to previous Ministers Butler and Burke.
7. Consultations with stakeholders are managed by the lead Australian Government agency for the TPP. As such, this query should be directed to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
8. No. See question 7.