Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates, 16 February 2006

Question: AT 40

Topic: Kebbel bank

Hansard Page: E48

Senator SHERRY asked:

Is ASIC aware whether or not there is such a licensed entity as the Kebbel bank?

Mr Lucy—I am not able to respond to that. I will have to take it on notice.

Senator SHERRY—I might check that with APRA. But I do not think there is a Kebbel bank licence.

Mr Lucy—I would be surprised to find out that was the case.

Senator SHERRY—But part of the activities involved an indication to individuals that there was a bank, in this case the Kebbel bank, involved. You have no knowledge of the role played by this purported bank in the selling of these products?

Mr Lucy—I will take that on notice.

Answer:

ASIC has no record of any licensed entity known as Kebbel Bank.

ASIC received a complaint about the use of the term 'Kebbel Investment Bank' in April 2005. The complainant was advised that this was a matter for APRA and referred to that agency. ASIC is advised that APRA took action in respect to this matter.

Since March 2006 ASIC has received information from several investors who have referred to an entity by the name of Kebbel Investment Bank.

The activities of the Kebbel group, which is based in Perth and connected to a director of several companies in the Westpoint group, is a matter that is currently under investigation.