

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
2006-07 Additional Budget Estimates Hearing
15 & 16 February 2007

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: *'Global Integration' Industry Statement - Consultants*

REFERENCE: Hansard 16/2/07, Page E25-E26 & E34

QUESTION No. AI-30

(Hansard 16/2/07, Page E25-E26 & E34)

Senator CARR asked:—Last time we discussed this matter you were unable to tell me whether or not there were going to be any consultants engaged in the preparation of this statement. Are you able to tell me now whether or not any consultants have been engaged?

Mr Dean—The department has a strategic research program which involves a number of consultancies and the statement process has drawn on some of those consultancies. In addition we have paid a small amount of money to five or six consultants to do a day or two's work for us so that we are aware of particular areas that we want to look at in detail.

Senator CARR—Are these consultants earning commission for this particular work, or is it work already that has been commissioned?

Mr Dean—The strategic research plan is work that the department already had decided to do; the small consultancies that I referred to is work that we have commissioned specifically.

Senator CARR—Can you give me a list of those consultants?

Mr Dean—I can: Dr John Howard of Howard Partners we engaged for a day; Don Scott-Kemmis for a day from ANU innovation program; Professor Andre Morkel from the University of Western Australia; Strategic and Organisational Research and Consulting—

Senator CARR—How long were they engaged for?

Mr Dean—Most of these were a day or two. Others were the Australian Business Foundation; Day and Hodge; and Rodney Bourke and Rod McEwan.

Senator CARR—And when were they engaged?

Mr Dean—I will get back to you on that.

Senator CARR—Was it over December?

Mr Dean—I do not know exactly when they were engaged.

Senator CARR—It was recent though, presumably since last November? It was last November I asked this question and you were not able to tell me, so I take it that it is since November.

Mr Dean—I will get back to you.

Senator CARR—Today?

Mr Dean—Yes.

Senator CARR—How long does it take to look at your file?

Mr Dean—I do not have the information in front of me. I would just like to be correct—

Senator CARR—I thought it would be a reasonable conclusion to draw given I asked similar questions in November and you were not able to tell me then.

Mr Dean—I would like to give you a correct answer.

Senator CARR—Thank you very much.

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Mr Paterson—If I could just clarify an issue that was raised earlier, there was an interchange on some question concerning consultancies in the industry statement. I do not have today's *Hansard* in front of us but I think you essentially put a proposition to us that we had said on the last occasion—that was when we were before supplementary estimates on 1 November—that there were no consultancies undertaken. I would refer you to page E29 of the record, which is the interchange between you and me on that day:

Senator CARR—What is the total budget for the project?

Mr Paterson—The staffing costs associated with the individuals.

Senator CARR—No other costs associated with the project?

Mr Paterson—Not directly attributed to the project.

Senator CARR—No research?

Mr Paterson—We have a variety of inputs to the process in preparing that advice.

Senator CARR—No consultancies are planned?

Mr Paterson—It is still very much a work in progress.

Senator CARR—It is to be published in less than a year—10 months—

Mr Paterson—Correct.

Senator CARR—and you cannot tell me whether or not you plan to employ any consultants?

Mr Paterson—I have indicated to you that no decisions have been taken yet as to what will be incorporated into the statement.

That was the nature of the interchange between us. I did not give you an emphatic assurance that as at 1 November there was no work that may have at some point in time—

Senator CARR—I see the point you make. I was not suggesting I have been misled. My concern did not go to that. It went to what the research base was to the statement, not whether or not you were playing fast and loose with the truth.

Mr Paterson—And I only clarify it for the purposes that we have taken some questions on notice that relate to the context in which you asked it and I wanted you to be conscious that we will be responding to the questions on notice having regard to that statement, not any others.

ANSWER

The Department provides the following information in response to these questions on notice.

CONSULTANTS – INDUSTRY STATEMENT

Name	Date Engaged	Duration of Engagement
Rodney Bourke	3 July 2006	2.09 days
Dr John Howard, Howard Partners Pty Ltd	6 July 2006	1 day
Rob McKeon	31 July 2006	3 days
Don Scott-Kemmis, Don Scott Kemmis & Associates	31 August 2006	2 days
Australian Business Foundation	1 September 2006	2 days
Emeritus Professor Andre Morkel	12 September 2006	2 days
Rob McKeon	18 September 2006	3 days
Dr Geoffrey Lewis, Strategic and Organisational Research and Consulting	28 September 2006	3 days
Rodney Bourke	3 October 2006	2 days