

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2010-11
23 February 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Steel Supplier Advocates

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 February 2011, E58)

QUESTION No.: AI-22

Senator PRATT—I know that it is not an issue for this department, but I do note that there is some \$300 million in federal government infrastructure funding forecast for this project. Thank you for outlining that to me. I was not sure whether the steel and rail car advocates have specific views about this also, but—

Mr Lawson—The rail advocate's work thus far has been on rail rolling stock rather than on rail infrastructure-type activities. It has not engaged so far in that project. Also, we do not have a freight rolling stock production in Australia anymore, so it is mostly passenger rolling stock. In terms of the steel, I would have to check on whether there was some specific work on that particular project. The steel advocate certainly did quite a bit of work in Western Australia.

ANSWER

The Steel Supplier Advocate met with Oakajee's procurement contractor in February and August 2010 to exchange information on project requirements and Australian steel producing capabilities. The Advocate was advised by the Oakajee contractor that major components of the project will be tendered in Australia and internationally. The Advocate conveyed to the contractor the need for Australian companies such as fabricators and steelmakers to be given full, fair and reasonable opportunity to supply to the project.