

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 2 June – 4 June 2009

Question: bet 165

Topic: Lynas Corporation Limited

Hansard Page: E13

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM—We have come to the specific one that I am interested in and I realise you probably will not be able to disclose too much of the actual thinking of the board at this time. Can you confirm for us whether the board is assessing the case of Lynas Corporation Limited, which has proposed mining operations at Mt Weld in WA, and China Nonferrous Metal Mining Group—CNMC—which has proposed to take a 51 per cent stake in Lynas? Are you familiar with that, for example?

Mr Colmer—I am a little familiar with it. At this stage, I am not sure that it is even a formal case. I could be wrong there, but we are aware of the proposal.

Senator LUDLAM—Could you take on notice for us, if that is something that you are aware of at the moment, whether the board is assessing that proposed investment?

Answer:

It has been the longstanding practice for applications received by the Government for foreign investment approval to be treated as commercial-in-confidence.

Consistent with this approach, the Treasury is unable to provide further comment on any application currently or potentially before the Foreign Investment Review Board.

Treasury notes that Lynas Corporation Ltd issued an announcement to the Australian Stock Exchange on 1 May 2009 in relation to the matter raised by Senator Ludlam. The announcement indicated that the proposed investment in Lynas by China Nonferrous Metal Mining (Group) Co. Ltd would be subject to Foreign Investment Review Board approval.