

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Consultations on Resolution of Small Business [Disputes Options] Paper (options paper)

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 30 May 2011, E88)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-35

**Senator RYAN:** Can you take on notice and provide to me the actual meetings or forums that are taking place and a list of invitees and attendees, please.

**Mr Joyce:** We can do that, Senator.

**ANSWER**

The consultation stage of the business to business dispute options paper began after Minister Sherry officially launched the options paper on 20 May 2011 at the Melbourne Business Awards Breakfast.

Minister Sherry wrote to all State and Territory Small Business Ministers and members of the Small Business Advisory Committee, inviting their input into the options paper.

Minister Sherry has promoted the importance of business community input at events such as the Institute of Public Accountant's Tasmanian Congress and the Devonport Small Business Roundtable on 21 May 2011, the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) Harmonisation Forum on 27 May 2011, the Tasmanian Newsagents Industry Awards for Excellence on 4 June 2011.

Further Minister Sherry has promoted the need for input into the options paper when holding unrelated meetings with industry stakeholders and peak bodies throughout the consultation period.

Departmental officials from the Industry and Small Business Policy Division of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research met with Peter Strong (Council of Small Businesses of Australia; COSBOA) on 26 May 2011 to discuss the options paper and departmental officials also held detailed discussions on the options paper at the SCAG Harmonisation Forum on 27 May 2011.

Feedback on the options paper was sought via the Business Consultation Web-site. The department has also monitored both the email post box and direct mail for formal submissions and has taken numerous phone calls on the options paper.

The closing date for submissions to the options paper was 30 June 2011. The Minister will consider further options for stakeholder consultation.