

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

20 – 21 October 2010

**Question: SBT 216**

**Topic: Request for production of email between Mr Parker and AGS**

**Senator Brandis asked:**

**Senator BRANDIS**—Thank you. Mr Parker, who made the decision to include and exclude from what was produced from the material? Was that your decision?

**Mr Parker**—Yes, it was my decision.

**Senator BRANDIS**—Was that decision made itself on the basis of legal advice?

**Mr Parker**—Yes, it was.

**Senator BRANDIS**—From?

**Mr Parker**—From the Australian Government Solicitor.

**Senator BRANDIS**—Was that legal advice documented?

**Mr Parker**—No, it was oral advice.

**Senator BRANDIS**—Was a minute prepared of that conversation?

**Mr Parker**—No, a minute has not been prepared of that conversation.

**Senator BRANDIS**—Is there any documentary record of that conversation?

**Mr Parker**—There may be a documentary record of it in the form of an email. I would have to check and in the event of you requesting that then, again, I will take it on notice.

**Senator BRANDIS**—I do request the production of any email of the kind that you have described.

**Senator CAMERON**—I remember another search for an email!

**Senator BRANDIS**—Mr Parker—

**Senator Sherry**—We will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

Releasing the email may prejudice the Commonwealth's legal position and would therefore not be in the public interest. Accordingly, the Government does not propose to disclose the email.