Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2011

Question:SR10Topic:Sale of UraniumProof Hansard Page:84

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: Thank you. Could you provide for us the criteria by which the Australian government would preclude sales of uranium to a state whether or not they had signed on to the NPT, please.

Mr Hoffman: That is one that we will take on notice.

Answer:

The Australian Government's Uranium Exports Policy requires that the recipient country is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Recipient countries must also have in force an Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), providing for strengthened safeguards, and have concluded a bilateral nuclear safeguards agreement with Australia.

Australia is selective as to the countries with which it is prepared to conclude bilateral safeguards agreements. Australian uranium is supplied only for exclusively peaceful purposes and consideration is given on a case-by-case basis as to the countries with which the Australian Government decides to conclude such agreements.