

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION,
SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Chief Scientist - FV Abel Tasman

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-61

1. Has the Chief Scientist provided any advice to any Minister or Parliamentary Secretary in the Government regarding the issues surrounding the FV Abel Tasman?
2. If so, what was this advice and when was it provided?
3. Has the Chief Scientist been involved in any discussion of these issues with other members of the Forum of Australian Chief Scientists?
4. What role does or should the Chief Scientist have in issues such as those surrounding the FV Abel Tasman and ensuring relevant Ministers and the public are appropriately informed?
5. Can advice be provided to Ministers or the public by the Chief Scientist without being directly requested by the Minister or department?

ANSWER

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. No.
4. The role of the Chief Scientist is to provide high-level independent advice to the Government on science, technology and innovation and to act as an advocate for science. His role in respect of specific issues would depend on the circumstances.
5. Please see response to question 4.