

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
21 November 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: SPC Ardmona

REFERENCE: Written Question - Senator Kim Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-112

In relation to SPC Ardmona:

1. Has the Department briefed the incoming government on SPC's business case for government co-investment?
2. When did the Department brief the Government on SPC's situation?
3. Did the Department convey the company's urgency for a decision from government?
4. Has the Department done any further work on potential support measures for SPC?
5. Has the Department done any analysis or modelling of the regional economic effects on growers should SPC close its Goulbourn Valley operations?
6. Has the Department done any preliminary work or provided any advice as to whether a transition package would be needed should SPC cease operations? (If yes) What are your preliminary conclusions and recommendations?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
 2. The Department has provided briefing to the Minister including for his meetings with SPC Ardmona.
 3. The Minister has been provided with briefings on SPC Ardmona.
- 4 5 &6 The Government is in discussions with SPC Ardmona with respect to the company's request for assistance and the impacts of any closure. The Minister has established a high-level panel to provide independent advice on SPC Ardmona's specific request for assistance. The panel comprises Ms Catherine Livingstone AO, Mr Richard (Dick) Warburton AO LVO and the Hon Greg Combet AM.