

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2ND NOVEMBER 2006**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

OFFICE OF WORKPLACE SERVICES

**Outcome 1 : The rights and obligations of workers and employers under the
Workplace Relations Act 1996 are understood and enforced fairly**

Output Group 1.1 : Education and Compliance Services

Question Number: W397-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

OWS - United Petroleum

Is the OWS aware of the United Petroleum issue? How did the OWS become aware of the issue? (a) What has the OWS done to investigate this issue? If nothing, why not? (b) If OWS has investigated — what were the findings, particularly in relation to whether there had been a transmission of business and the standing of the employees' existing terms and conditions of employment?

Answer:

An initial investigation was conducted in response to a report in the *Hobart Mercury* on 30 June 2006 which reported on employee concerns regarding United Petroleum operating the Bridgewater Mobil service station.

Subsequently, on 3 October 2006, OWS received a letter from Mr Simon Cocker, Secretary of Unions Tasmania outlining Mr Cocker's concerns relating to employment issues arising from United Petroleum Pty Ltd and their Tasmanian operating company Norvac Pty Ltd.

OWS currently has an ongoing investigation at each of the newly acquired Norvac operated service stations.

At 1 November 2006, the investigation is ongoing and there are no findings finalised to date.

Estimated Cost: To prepare this answer has taken approximately 3.5 hours at a cost of \$65.75