

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES – 9 FEBRUARY 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme

Question reference number: HS 14

Senator: ABETZ

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 94-96, 9 February 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator ABETZ - What was the longest delay in processing an (Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme) invoice?

Answer:

The longest delay in processing a claim was 175 days, from 27 August 2009 to 18 February 2010, for a Bulk Grain Storage Facility claim lodged by Tasmanian Grain Elevators.

Bulk Grain Storage Facility claims are not standard Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme claims. Tasmanian Grain Elevators is the only approved Bulk Grain Storage Facility Agent claimant supplying grain and stockfeed to primary producers in Tasmania. The Bulk Grain Storage Facility claims are more complex than the standard Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme claims, requiring the application of different clauses of the Ministerial Directions.

The delay in processing this claim was caused in part by the complexity of the claim, involving the sale of grain up to two years previous to the claim date, (an allowable component of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme), its significant value, and the need for the current owner of the business to sort and source supporting documents, such as invoices and spreadsheet data, which were still held by the previous business owner, to validate the claim.

Considerable assistance was given by Centrelink to Tasmanian Grain Elevators from the time the claim was lodged until finalisation to ensure that the claim was assessed and granted as quickly as possible.