

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Budget Estimates Hearing 24 May-3rd June 2010**

**Question: PM53**

**Topic: NAH Agreement - local and state governments**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 110, 25 May**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator HUMPHRIES-Are you saying that the provisions that guarantee a role for local government in NAHA are only provisions effectively for the benefit of the state governments that signed those agreements and that local governments cannot take any comfort from the protection that they are afforded by that agreement because the states that signed the agreement can effectively negotiate their way away from those obligations in the case of these particular projects?**

**Ms Beauchamp-I would have to take that on notice to answer that question in particular because I would need to look at exactly what the arrangements are in the NAH Agreement.**

**Answer:**

Clause 13 of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) makes it clear that local governments operate under state government regulations in exercising building approval, planning and other specified powers. Therefore, the introduction of streamlined processes to facilitate the supply of social housing through the Nation Building and Jobs Plan by state governments is not inconsistent with the NAHA.