

**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 Hearings 2005-2006, 31 October 2005**

**Question: PM 13**

**Outcome 1, Output 1.1**

**Topic: Tasmanian Forests Package – Skills and Training Measure**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 59**

**Senator Brown asked: I do ask you that: at what time did the negotiations commence and with whom and who instigated these negotiations?**

**Answer:** An Australian Government negotiating group comprising officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of the Environment and Heritage and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was convened to negotiate the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement package with Tasmanian Government officials. The first formal meeting between Australian and Tasmanian Government officials was held on 11 November 2004.