

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 16

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Tasmanian Forests Package – Skills and Training Measure

Hansard Page: F&PA 59

Senator Brown asked: Just regarding the Prime Minister and PM&C, would you discover what talks were held with NAFI or with the union, the forestry division, and its representatives in the 12 months leading up to the election and when those talks were held?

Answer: The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet held no discussions with either NAFI or the forestry division of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union in the 12 months leading up to the October 2004 federal election.

The Prime Minister did not meet with NAFI or the union in the twelve months leading up to the election. The Prime Minister's office did meet with relevant stakeholders – including NAFI, forest industries, forest communities and conservation groups – in the twelve months leading up to the election.