

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Topic: Contract with Silversun Pty Ltd

Question reference number: CC17a-d

Type of Question: (*Hansard F&PA page 133, 19 October 2009*)

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

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Question: (Senator Ronaldson)

Senator RONALDSON—I accept that, but I was seeking to ascertain whether the terms of the competition were such that it was directed towards a particular point of view and whether that reflected the government's point of view in relation to both the issues and the urgency. But if you are saying that it did not, then I accept that. Let me take you to the issue—and, again, if this has been raised by Senator Abetz previously, I apologise—concerning a contract notice CN502000, with some \$77,000 between the Department of Climate Change and Silver Sun Pictures Pty Ltd for the development of a climate change DVD. [a] Has this been raised before?

Senator Wong—Could we take that on notice, Senator? We think we know what it is but we are not sure whether the reference that you have given refers to the DVD we think it does.

Senator RONALDSON—Climate change DVD, contract note IDC and 205000, 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009—

Dr Parkinson—Was that July 2008 to June 2009?

Senator RONALDSON—Yes. \$77,000, climate change DVD, Silver Sun Pictures Pty Ltd.

Senator Wong—Senator, I think we need to take that on notice.

Senator RONALDSON—When you are taking that on notice, Minister, could you please let me know [b] whether that DVD happened to advance a particular point of view on the issue of climate change and the actions needed to combat it. [c] And if the DVD did advance that view, does that point of view constitute an endorsement of the government's position that its ETS legislation must be immediately passed by parliament? [d] Was notice taken whether the government intended any particular target audience for the DVDs, for example, primary or school children?...

Answer:

- (a) No.
- (b) The DVD showcased case studies on managing risk from the impacts of climate change that are relevant to local governments. The points of view expressed and actions reported were those of the interviewees who were scientists or representatives of various local government authorities.
- (c) No reference was made to the emissions trading scheme.
- (d) The target audience for the DVD was local government.