

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

**Topic:** Australian Women's Land Army

**Senator:** Senator Faulkner

**Question reference number:** 32

**Type of Question:** FPA, p 85-86, 17 October

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Ms Noble: Yes. My understanding is that we have engaged with the Department of Defence and the advice has been that further formal recognition of the Australian Women's Land Army is not warranted.

[...]

Senator FAULKNER: When did these discussions with Defence take place?

Ms Noble: Sorry, I do not have that information.

Senator FAULKNER: Who did they take place with? Can you help me with that?

Ms Noble: We can take those questions on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and the Department of Defence (Defence) consulted regarding the merits of, and options for, further recognition for the former members of the Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA) in the lead up to the 2011-2012 Budget Estimates hearings on 23 May 2011, when the then National Security Adviser, Mr Duncan Lewis took a question on notice (QoN) on avenues for further recognition of the AWLA.

PM&C has no record of engagement with Defence or the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) on further recognition of the AWLA between the 2011-2012 Budget Estimates hearings on 23 May 2011, and 17 October 2011.

As indicated by the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr Lewis during the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings on 19 October 2011, Secretary Lewis and the Secretary of PM&C, Dr Ian Watt have undertaken to develop options for further recognition of the AWLA

## **Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

### **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

#### **Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

with the intention of providing recommendations for such recognition for Government consideration. On 24 October an interdepartmental committee (IDC) comprising senior officials from PM&C, Defence and DVA met to carry forward the development of options for further recognition. Pursuant to a decision of the IDC, on 8 November 2011, Mr Graham Eveille, Assistant Secretary, Defence Policy Branch PM&C, met with the NSW Branch President of the AWLA Association, Mrs Peggy Williams, and Dr Elizabeth Wulff (who had previously made representation to Defence on behalf of the AWLA Association) to seek their views and advice on options to further recognise the AWLA. The results of the discussion have been conveyed to IDC members. In consultation with Defence and DVA, PM&C intends to develop proposals for further recognition of the surviving members of the AWLA for Government consideration in sufficient time to allow further recognition to be implemented on 27 July 2012, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the AWLA.