

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Sub Program 1.2.4

Question No. 82

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2009:

Has advice, in relation to international legal aspects of whaling and the International Whaling Commission, been provided by the Department in 2008 or 2009, separate to that provided by Professor James Crawford? If so, when was this advice provided? Was additional advice provided prior to or subsequent to the advice provided in November 2008?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Solicitor-General (Stephen Gageler SC) and the First Assistant Secretary of the Office of International Law (Bill Campbell QC) provided written advice on the international legal aspects of whaling to Government on 5 November 2008.

Additionally, the Office of International Law continues to provide advice on the legal aspects of whaling to relevant Government agencies on an informal, ad hoc basis. This includes by way of oral advice in inter-departmental meetings and contributions to written documents such as meeting briefs.