

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.3

Question No. 74

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 December 2005:

- a) Regarding the Urban Search and Rescue Capabilities are WA, SA , Tas and the NT still classed as developing capabilities?
 - (i) if not, when did they cease to be classed as developing capabilities?
 - (ii) If so, what is the timeframe for completing the upgrade of these capabilities?
 - (iii) Has EMA finished procuring equipment for this capability?
 - (iv) How far away is EMA from establishing a national USAR capability?
- b) Regarding the gaps that EMA identified in SA, NT, ACT and Tas at the last estimates have you finished procuring the basic equipment for these states?
 - (i) If not, when do you expect to do so?
 - (ii) If so, when did you finish doing that?
 - (iii) What was the total cost of the procurement of the basic equipment?
 - (iv) What was the originally projected cost of this equipment?
 - (v) Has the equipment been provided to the states?
- c) Could you indicate how much of the \$15million that the Federal Government provided as part of its cost-sharing burden has been expended?
 - (i) Could you provide a breakdown?
 - (ii) Has any additional funding been requested?
 - (iii) If so, how much and when was it requested?
- d) Could you indicate what work EMA is continuing to do with the non-developing states (Qld, NSW, Vic)?
- e) What sort of liaising are you doing with them?
 - (i) Is it primarily expert advice, or providing resources?
- f) Are you continuing to monitor their training programs to ensure they are up-to-date with what is required?

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

- a) Yes
 - (i) Not applicable
 - (ii) Four years, including in financial year 08/09.

- (iii) No
 - (iv) The four year USAR project aims to increase Australia's national capability through the acquisition of equipment, extensive training and agreement of national policy. All of this will be completed in 08/09.
- b) No
 - (i) EMA will procure the bulk of the equipment to establish a national USAR capability during 2005-06 and 2006-07
 - (ii) Not applicable
 - (iii) Not available at this point
 - (iv) Not available at this point
 - (v) No
- c) Orders to the value of \$2.2M for direct sourcing equipment have been placed. An expression of interest for the supply of a further \$10.5 M will be advertised in December 2005.
 - (i) A breakdown of equipment will be provided on completion of purchase
 - (ii) No
 - (iii) Not applicable
- d) Equipment to the value of \$4.5M for these three states is being purchased.
- e) EMA has frequent dialogue with all jurisdictions about USAR capability.
 - (i) both
- f) Yes