

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2014-15
26 February 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Automotive Transformation Scheme

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 26 February 2015, page 125)

QUESTION No.: AI-35

Senator XENOPHON: That is not the question I was going to ask. In respect of the scheme overall, has the department done any modelling or analysis or provided any advice about the scheme being rejigged if there were likely to be new entrants? In other words, have you been asked to provide any advice, modelling or any other work in respect to any changes to the scheme that may occur if there were, for instance, new entrants? Has any consideration been given to taking away some of the scheme funds from the existing OEMs?

Mr Chesworth: I am limited in what I can say because it falls into the area of policy advice. But I am not aware of anything in particular. The government's policy is to maintain the arrangements, particularly in relation to the ATS, because that is the best way to provide some certainty for the inevitable transition that is going to occur.

Senator XENOPHON: I am not asking you for policy advice; I am asking whether the department has provided—not the nature of the advice, not the content of the advice—any advice in respect of alternative scenarios for how the scheme would operate, scenarios that are substantially different from how the scheme is operating now.

Mr Chesworth: I am not aware of it. We will go back and check. If I have to get back to you, I will do so.

ANSWER

The department has not done any modelling or analysis or provided any advice in respect of the Automotive Transformation Scheme being amended for new entrants.

Capped assistance to ATS participants is modulated in the manner set out in the Automotive Transformation Scheme Order 2010, which ensures that the amount of capped assistance cannot exceed the legislated funding cap, no matter how many ATS participants there are.