

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 16 February 2006

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
TOPIC: ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUILDING CODES BOARD ON THE ACCESS TO PREMISES STANDARD
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

QUESTION No.AI-73

Senator Campbell asked:

Has the "additional analysis and research on the Premises Standard" undertaken by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) been completed and, if so, when was it submitted to Ministers and which Ministers and Departments?

ANSWER

Yes, the additional work has been completed by the ABCB. The Department is currently analysing that work before providing formal advice to Minister Macfarlane.

QUESTION No.AI-74

Senator Campbell asked:

If the "additional analysis and research on the Premises Standard" has not been completed, what is the nature of the work yet to be completed and when is it anticipated that it will be completed?

ANSWER

See the response to question AI-73 above.

QUESTION No.AI-75

Senator Campbell asked:

What is the text of any completed "additional analysis and research on the Premises Standard"?

ANSWER

The additional analysis and research represents ongoing policy advice to the Government and therefore remains confidential.

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 16 February 2006

QUESTION No.AI-76

Senator Campbell asked:

What is the cost of the “additional analysis and research on the Premises Standard” and what budget item does it come under in the ABCB budget?

ANSWER

The cost of the additional analysis is expected to be \$130,046.

The work is being funded from the ABCB 2005-06 budget provision for its Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) activities.

QUESTION No.AI-77

Senator Campbell asked:

Who is undertaking this “additional analysis and research on the Premises Standard”, including the name(s) of members of the project team(s)?

ANSWER

The additional analysis was undertaken by Jaguar Consulting Pty Ltd in consultation with the Turner & Townsend Rawlinsons and ABCB office staff. A peer review of the draft RIS was undertaken by Access Economics Pty Ltd.

QUESTION No.AI-78

Senator Campbell asked:

How many documents are there that set out the brief for the “additional analysis and research”, what is the document(s) date, and what is the character of the contents of each of the documents?

ANSWER

There are seven documents that set out the brief for the additional analysis and research.

- Additional Analysis relating to the Board’s advice to Ministers on the Premises Standard Draft RIS – 19 April 2005
- Updating of Cost Matrices and National Costs – 27 July 2005
- Letter from the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, to Mr Peter J. Laver, Chairman, Australian Building Codes Board, 9 August 2005.
- Analysis of Options – 13 September 2005
- Further Analysis of Options – 19 September 2005
- Preparation of Final RIS Access to Premises Standard proposed by the Board – 11 October 2005
- Peer Review of draft Final RIS – 22 December 2005

The titles of the documents demonstrate their character.

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 16 February 2006

QUESTION No.AI-79

Senator Campbell asked:

What is the full text of the brief(s) for the “additional analysis and research”?

ANSWER

The documents are confidential, as they relate to the Board’s ongoing policy advice to Government.

QUESTION No.AI-80

Senator Campbell asked:

Does the “additional analysis and research on the Premises Standard” include the costing of possibilities for alternative levels of accessibility to be included in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standard (i.e. alternative possible requirements as to what has to be accessible to people with disabilities and alternative possible requirements as to the minimum standard that is to be set)?

ANSWER

Yes.