

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
2006-07 Additional Budget Estimates Hearing
15 & 16 February 2007

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: *Ethanol*

REFERENCE: Hansard 15/2/07, Page E96-E97

QUESTION No. AI-4

(Hansard 15/2/07, Page E96-E97)

Senator BOSWELL asked: —You have given us the figures for ethanol. What percentage of the ethanol sold has gone to the four major oil companies?

Mr Sexton—We do not have that information here.

Senator BOSWELL—Would you be able to get that information for us?

Mr Sexton—It is something we could check, but I cannot be sure that we do have that information.

Senator BOSWELL—You must have the information if you are paying a production subsidy?

Mr Sexton—That is right. We may have that information, but I am not absolutely sure.

Senator BOSWELL—If someone said they had sold one million litres or whatever, you must ask, ‘Who have you sold it to?’

Mr Sexton—That would probably be reasonable, but I am not sure. What we are doing is reimbursing the sale excise tax on these things.

Senator BOSWELL—Yes, but obviously you just do not accept the word, I would imagine, of CSR saying, ‘We have sold 100 million litres; please send a cheque.’

Mr Peel—No, they have to give us evidence that they have paid the excise, and we reimburse them now. Whether they also give us details of to whom they have sold the fuel, we are not sure, but we will check that.

Senator BOSWELL—I would like to know the breakdown of the ethanol sales between the independents and the four major oil companies. How do I get those figures?

Mr Peel—If you allow us to take it on notice, we will see if we can provide it. If we cannot, we will let you know.

ANSWER

The percentage of ethanol sold to oil majors is not information that is collected by AusIndustry.