

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 20-21 February 2008

Question: aet 54

Topic: Tertiary Qualifications – Chairman etc.

Hansard Page: E130

Senator ABETZ asked:

Senator ABETZ—There is one in relation to formal tertiary qualifications of the chairman, deputy chairman and the full-time and associate commissioners of the ACCC, including the newly appointed petrol commissioner. I would appreciate if you could take that on notice just out of interest. There has been a lot of fanfare about Mr Walker's appointment, or impending appointment.

Senator Sherry—He has not been appointed. It is under consideration.

Senator ABETZ—I corrected myself. What kind of savings is the government expecting that the motorist can expect to enjoy as a result of this?

Senator Sherry—Mr Samuel has already answered that issue extensively.

Senator ABETZ—In relation to the ACCC.

Senator Sherry—I do not know whether you were here or not.

Senator ABETZ—In relation to the government—

Senator Sherry—I will pass on your question to the minister.

Senator ABETZ—To Mr Bowen?

Senator Sherry—To Mr Bowen, yes.

Senator ABETZ—He made a lot of fanfare about it and the news now seems to be that we are only talking about a few cents rather than 10c or 15c. Interestingly enough, Mr Walker's record in Western Australia, if I have been given the correct information, is that there is not a great deal of difference in the price rise in Western Australia compared to other states. In fact, since FuelWatch was implemented in Western Australia the average price rise in metropolitan areas in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and even in our home state of Tasmania, was lower than in Western Australia. And of course in Western Australia they have got some extra competitive issues such as Gull, as opposed to a state like Tasmania.

Senator Sherry—To respond to that, I am not sure whether there is a question there or whether it was just your editorial observations and comments. But I will pass on the question you asked earlier to the minister. I am sure he will be having discussions with Mr Samuel about the outcomes of the inquiry being conducted and the actions of Mr Walker, when he is appointed and subsequently, and we will see what emerges. It is certainly far too early to observe whether there are any differing views as to outcomes because the inquiries have not been completed and Mr Walker has not even been appointed.

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Answer:

Details of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Members and Associate Members tertiary qualifications are:

- Chairman Graeme Samuel holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Laws from Monash University.
- Deputy Chair Louise Sylvan holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Ontario and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Victoria, Canada.
- Commissioner Stephen King holds a Bachelor of Economics (with first class Honours and the University Medal) from the Australian National University. Commissioner King has also completed a Master of Economics from Monash University and a Masters of Arts and a PhD in economics at Harvard University.
- Commissioner John Martin holds a Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University.
- Commissioner Pat Walker completed a Senior Executive Development Course at the Curtin University of Technology/Australian Institute of Management. Commissioner Walker also holds a Diploma in Local Government.
- Associate Commissioner Chris Chapman holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of New South Wales.