

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2007-08

21 February 2008

Question: AR-9
Topic: Assistance from ABARE.
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Senator Johnston asked:

Senator JOHNSTON—Are you in a position to provide us on notice a brief as to what areas of concern you have enlisted ABARE’s assistance with.

CHAIR—Unless the minister wants to answer that, that is a policy advice to government.

Senator JOHNSTON—I do not think it is policy at all. I think they have incurred expenditure, they have gone to a contractor and I want to know what they have asked the contractor to do.

Mr Ryan—We can give you a breakdown.

Senator JOHNSTON—Thank you. I am not interested in dollars or any of the commercial arrangements with ABARE. I just want to know what areas the department is concerned to prepare for, because I know there are a lot of constituents, if we can call them that, out there who want to know where this is all headed.

Answer:

The Department has commissioned work from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) for 2007-08 to assist its involvement in climate change issues.

The Department supports ABARE's economic modelling capacity and development to ensure the Government can comprehensively analyse international and domestic climate change policies. This modelling capacity allows the impacts of greenhouse gas emission reductions on Australian industry to be examined.

The Department expects ABARE to deliver in 2008:

- A public research report on the economic impacts for Australian industry of emerging international climate change policy.
- The 5th meeting of the Boat House group. The Boat House will discuss “*Developing an effective global response to climate change – the Australian Emissions Trading Scheme, international efforts and adaptation options*”. Papers will be published following the meeting.
- ABARE's participation in the International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) process to review the science and economic developments in climate change. This work is eventually published by the IPCC.