

**RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO**  
**Additional Estimates 2007-08**

**Written Questions on Notice**

Q No	Senator	Agency	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Appointments; Grants; Requests to the Department of Finance</i>						
<u>AR-1</u>	Minchin	RET	<p>In preparation for the Senate Estimates Hearings which commence on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2008, it would be appreciated if each Department could provide information along the following lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All appointments which have been made by the Government (through Executive Council, Cabinet and Ministers) to Statutory Authorities, Executive Agencies and Advisory Boards, with a brief outline of the respective appointee's credentials.</li> <li>▪ A list of all vacancies which remain to be filled by Ministerial (including Cabinet and Executive Council) appointments.</li> <li>▪ All grants which have been approved by Ministers from within their portfolio.</li> <li>▪ Requests to the Department of Finance to move funds within each portfolio.</li> </ul> <p>Could you please ensure that all Ministers are notified of these requests so that Senate Committees are in a position to consider the information provided during Estimates.</p> <p>In future I propose that, Departments, as a matter of course, should supply this information before each round of Senate Estimates.</p> <p>In addition, I request that the Government provide me with a complete list of election promises made during the campaign and which Department is responsible for the administration of each of these commitments.</p> <p>The Opposition would like to have this information on hand by the close of business on Wednesday 13 February 2008.</p> <p>I have copied this letter to the secretaries of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees.</p>	11/04/2008	11/04/2008	

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<i>Fossil fuel subsidies</i>						
<u>AR-2</u>	Milne	RET	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you provide a breakdown of the subsidies, including one-off grants, to the fossil fuel industry from your department in the 06/07 financial year, and their total dollar value? **</li> <li>2. Can you provide a breakdown of the subsidies, including one-off grants, to the renewable energy industry from your department in the 06/07 financial year, and their total dollar value? **</li> <li>3. Do you expect to alter the extent of subsidies to the renewable energy industry, so that in dollar value-terms, it is in parity with the fossil fuel industry? **</li> <li>4. Will the department be conducting any studies to investigate the impact of subsidies to the fossil fuel sectors on greenhouse emissions? **</li> <li>5. How much of the funding has been allocated to specific projects under the Low Emissions Technology Fund? (ie. What's unspent so far?)</li> <li>6. Have all the proposals for the LETF grants been finalised by the Government? If not, what stage are they at?</li> <li>7. Is the Government considering reviewing any of the applications / grants in light of changed policy objectives on climate change? If not, why not?</li> <li>8. Has the department calculated the impact on greenhouse emissions from these projects? What will be the total impact on Australia's emissions should all these projects go ahead?</li> <li>9. Has the department considered reviewing the criteria for Government spending on so called "clean coal" and "geo-sequestration" projects?</li> </ol> <p>** FYI These questions were also asked of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport Regional Development and Local Government</p>	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	

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<i>Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA)/Muckaty and the Northern Land Council</i>						
<u>AR-3</u>	Milne	RET	<p>At the February Additional Estimates hearing of the Economics Committee a number of issues raised by Senator Nettle on the issue of radioactive waste management were responded to by the Minister/Department as being under 'review' or 'consideration'.</p> <p>These included the timeline for repeal of the CRWMA, the process for notifying stakeholders over project or process developments, the status of dialogue and agreements with the NLC, the site nomination process that will follow repeal of the CRWMA and the federal Labor government's future approach to radioactive waste management.</p> <p>These questions were asked on February 21, given that the reply date to Questions on Notice for this Committee is April 11 what progress has there been on the review and consideration of these issues in this interim period?</p> <p>Given that the Department acknowledges the concern and opposition of both the Central Land Council and a number of specific estate clans to the nomination of the Muckaty site how do they propose to address this following the repeal of the CRWMA?</p> <p><i>Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA)</i></p> <p>When is repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act likely to be decided and announced? In the first half of 2008? Is this dependent in any way on the site assessment work currently being undertaken by Parsons Brinkerhoff?</p> <p>Will the affected communities and stakeholder organisations be contacted by the Department to notify them of the process of repeal?</p> <p>Does the ALP commitment to repeal the CRWMA also entail not pursuing any of the sites that had been assessed under the Howard government's site selection process for the federal dump?</p> <p>What are the specific 'matters currently under consideration' that may potentially delay the repeal of the CRWMA?</p> <p>Are there any contracts signed by the previous Government that are being investigated as</p>	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	

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			<p>potential impediments to the legislative repeal?</p> <p><i>Muckaty and the Northern Land Council</i></p> <p>Has the Minister met with representatives of the Northern Land Council to discuss Muckaty or any other sites in relation to a radioactive waste facility?</p> <p>a) regarding previous arrangements with the Howard government  b) in the context of the site(s) being considered for a dump under the Labor waste management process, including whether any previous nomination will be re-submitted</p> <p>When the CRWMA is repealed, would nominations of potential dump sites, such as the one submitted by the Northern Land Council for Muckaty, need to be resubmitted to comply with the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA) legislation?</p> <p>Is the Department intending to meet with the Northern Land Council to discuss Muckaty</p> <p>a) regarding previous arrangements with the Howard government  b) in the context of the site(s) being considered for a dump under the Labor waste management process, including whether any previous nomination will be re-submitted</p> <p><i>ALP approach to waste management</i></p> <p>Federal Labor has committed to a new approach to radioactive waste management that is based on non-imposition, extensive community consultation and best practice science – can the Minister/Department detail how and when this new process will be advanced?</p>			

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### Oral Questions on Notice

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005</i>								
<u>AR-4</u>	Nettle	RET	21/02/2008	<p><b>Senator NETTLE</b>—I have questions about the nuclear waste dump. I understand that the Labor Party’s position during the election campaign was for a repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act. Firstly, is that the position of the new government?</p> <p><b>Senator Carr</b>—The Labor Party’s election commitments remain.</p> <p><b>Senator NETTLE</b>—Is there a timeline for the repeal of that act?</p> <p><b>Senator Carr</b>—That is a matter for the new minister. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator NETTLE</b>—Thank you.</p>	E76	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	
<i>Ethanol Production Grants Program</i>								
<u>AR-5</u>	Joyce	RET	21/02/2008	<p><b>Senator JOYCE</b>—Do you think we have been effective in getting ethanol into the market? Do you think the uptake of the program is working well? Are cars now using more biorenewable fuels and helping to reduce our carbon footprint?</p> <p><b>Ms Taylor</b>—Over the last 12 months there has been quite a substantial increase in ethanol usage and program. I can give you some numbers in relation to the volumes. For the 2007 calendar year the program funded 110, 304, 231 litres of ethanol. That was up from 60 million litres the year before.</p> <p><b>Senator JOYCE</b>—So, that was 110 million litres?</p> <p><b>Ms Taylor</b>—Yes, 110.3 million litres. That is essentially about an 80 per cent increase over that calendar year.</p> <p><b>Senator JOYCE</b>—Is that uptake by independents? Where did that</p>	E78	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	

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				<p>uptake happen?</p> <p><b>Ms Taylor</b>—I do not have those details.</p> <p><b>Senator JOYCE</b>—Can you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms Taylor</b>—I am not sure that I can find that information.</p> <p><b>Senator JOYCE</b>—Tell me if you cannot. I will understand.</p>				
<i>Royalty rate for uranium in South Australia</i>								
<u>AR-6</u>	Johnston	RET	21/02/2008	<p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—Beverley is the new one. Can you tell me what the royalty is in South Australia? Is it a percentage or is it per tonne with respect to uranium?</p> <p><b>Mr Hartwell</b>—I would have to take that on notice unless one of my colleagues knows. We obviously do not have responsibility for administering uranium royalties in South Australia. That is a matter for the South Australian government.</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—Given we have only two states participating in the mining of that mineral, I am interested to know what the revenue lost to Western Australia and particularly Queensland would be. Do the department and your division ever analyse that? We have Kintore and Yalleroi. We know how many tonnes are in there. Have we looked at that?</p> <p><b>Mr Hartwell</b>—Not in the precise terms that you would put it. Obviously, we are aware of the Kintore and Yalleroi uranium deposits in Western Australia. The Western Australian government has a policy of no uranium mines at this point in time. Depending on your valuation of the resource you can make some judgment on the sorts of royalties that might accrue to the Western Australian government. You could do that, I suppose. It is not something that we have done.</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—Could you take that question on notice for me on South Australia?</p> <p><b>Mr Hartwell</b>—On South Australia? I am not sure what that means. These deposits are in Western Australia.</p>	E81-E82	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	

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				<p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—I am interested to know what South Australia is getting.</p> <p><b>Mr Hartwell</b>—I can take that one on notice.</p>				
<i>Fees relating to petroleum leases</i>								
<u>AR-7</u>	Johnston	RET	21/02/2008	<p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—Do we charge rent on our exploration leases? What are the fees approaching an exploration lease, an offshore petroleum lease, roughly?</p> <p><b>Mr Pegler</b>—There are a large variety of fees. For instance, you must pay a fee of \$4,400 to lodge an application for—</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—That is the application fee, yes.</p> <p><b>Mr Pegler</b>—Then there are ongoing annual administration fees. There are fees—</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—Just before you go any further: what ‘ongoing administration fees’?</p> <p><b>Mr Pegler</b>—I do not have the exact figures for each individual fee. We can give you a complete fee structure if that is all right.</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—I would like that, yes, please.</p>	E88	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	
<i>Petroleum activity within Australia</i>								
<u>AR-8</u>	Johnston	RET	21/02/2008	<p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—How does the department go about, at any given moment, saying what is on the go? When I say ‘what is on the go’, I want to talk about projects that are drilled up but are not in production. I think I need to try and tie this down. What is happening out there is a picture that I think we all need to know and understand, for policy reasons. What can you tell me about what is drilled up but is not yet in production but that we think will go into production?</p> <p><b>Mr Hartwell</b>—Again, I have to qualify my answer by saying these are commercial decisions and—</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—Let’s say all things being equal?</p>	E89-E90	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p><b>Mr Hartwell</b>—There are a number of projects on the drawing board in Australia in relation to gas, some of which I would imagine you are familiar with—for instance, the Gorgon project in offshore Western Australia. As well, as you move further up the coastline in Western Australia, there are the Browse projects and the Scarborough project. Then as you move around to the Timor Sea there are some areas there which are prospective. We would suggest that what is mainly to the fore at the moment in terms of proposals would be the Gorgon project, if you are talking about LNG projects. There is certainly a lot of work going forward on the Scarborough project. There are two projects in the Browse: the INPEX-operated project and the one there operated by Woodside out from Scott Reef. Then as you move around there is the Sunrise project which is shared between Australia and the joint area that we have with East Timor. They would be the major headline projects but then there is a whole range of—and we can provide you with a list—smaller gas deposits which are being looked at as various possibilities of development. So there is no shortage of possible projects.</p>				
<i>Assistance from ABARE</i>								
<u>AR-9</u>	Johnston	RET	21/02/2008	<p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—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.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Unless the minister wants to answer that, that is a policy advice to government.</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—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.</p> <p><b>Mr Ryan</b>—We can give you a breakdown.</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—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</p>	E92	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	



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				that, out there who want to know where this is all headed.				
<i>Strategic reserve policy for gas supplies</i>								
<u>AR-10</u>	Eggleston	RET	21/02/2008	<p><b>Senator EGGLESTON</b>—We have been talking about huge volumes of gas reserve in the Gorgon, Pluto, Scarborough, Browse and so on up the Western Australian coast. When the North-West Shelf was developed, Sir Charles Court imposed a 20 per cent, I think, strategic reserve on the North-West Shelf which he wanted quarantined for domestic use in the future. The Carpenter government has, over the last couple of years, talked of the same sort concept of strategic reserve so that there is gas available for domestic consumption quarantined from international sale. This is really a question I suppose most appropriately directed to Senator Carr, since it is a question of government policy. Has the federal government considered this concept of a strategic reserve to preserve gas for future energy requirements for Australia or given any consideration to it?</p> <p><b>Mr Ryan</b>—Western Australia have their reserve policy. The government has not considered any reserve policy.</p> <p><b>Senator EGGLESTON</b>—The federal government. Would you consider it prudent to do that?</p> <p><b>Mr Ryan</b>—That is one for the minister.</p> <p><b>Senator Carr</b>—I will take that on notice. I do not have any advice from the minister on that issue.</p> <p><b>Senator EGGLESTON</b>—Thank you. I would be grateful if you would take it on notice.</p>	E92	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	
<i>Infrastructure bottlenecks in resources and energy</i>								
<u>AR-11</u>	Johnston	RET	21/02/2008	<p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—Your department is responsible for the administration of resources, which converts to minerals, oil and gas, by and large, which are predominantly making up our balance of trade account. I would have thought you would be aware of the</p>	E99	27/03/2008	27/03/2008	

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				<p>threats and opportunities to that part of our economy.</p> <p><b>Mr Ryan</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—When I ask you about an infrastructure bottleneck in the context of that part of our economy, the part that is your responsibility, I would like you to identify an infrastructure bottleneck that we have a direct jurisdictional control over and can fix tomorrow.</p> <p><b>Dr Boxall</b>—We are aware of infrastructure issues that pertain to the industries for which our department is responsible and our minister is responsible, but the prime carriage, as you well know, is Minister Albanese’s department. We work with them, we consult with them, we provide input to their work, but they have the prime carriage. If you would like us to identify an infrastructure bottleneck in resources and energy—</p> <p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—I would.</p> <p><b>Dr Boxall</b>—We will take that on notice and see what we can do about it.</p>				