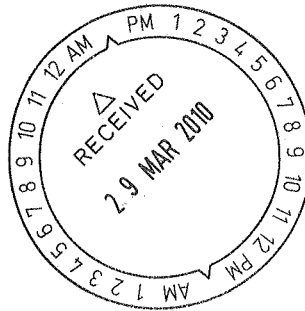




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Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Senators

Additional Budget Estimates Hearings - 10 February 2010 – Additional Information

The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Economics at the Additional Budget Estimates Hearings on 10-11 February 2010.


In evidence provided on 10 February 2010 (pg E110 refers – see Attachment A) I state that:
“...In the areas of energy commodities, it accounted for nine per cent of Australia's energy exports, with a value of \$4.1 billion...”.

These figures were referenced from the ABARE Australian Commodities Book September 2009, however ABARE has subsequently updated the value of energy exports in their December 2009 version of the Australian Commodities Book. The total value of energy exports to India as at December 2009 was \$7.01 billion.

We understand that Hansard is a formal transcript of proceedings and cannot be altered. However, I request this revised information be made available to Committee members to ensure they have the most current statistical information available to them.

If you require any further information in regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr Heath Axelby, Manager, Parliamentary Services Team on 6243 7036.

Yours sincerely


John Hartwell
Head of Division
Resources

24 March 2010

**Additional Budget Estimates Hearings
10 February 2010**

Excerpt from page E110

Mr Pierce—The question of China is somewhat separate, but India is one of the fastest growing markets for our commodities. If you were to rank the destinations—and I cannot remember precisely where they have come—you will see that over the last couple of years India has certainly jumped up that ranking quite a fair bit. For some reason, I have a ranking of fifth stuck in my head. All the conversations we have had within the department and in discussions with the government have always been around the core normal commodities. Nobody has raised any connections with me about this position and anything to do with the government's policy on destinations for uranium and the non-proliferation treaty.

Mr Hartwell—To supplement the secretary's answer, in 2008-09 India was the fourth largest importer of Australian mineral commodities. That is about eight per cent of our total minerals exports, at a value of around \$6.7 billion. In the area of energy commodities, it accounted for nine per cent of Australia's energy exports, with a value of \$4.1 billion. As you can see, from that low base three or four years ago, it has grown to be quite a substantial market for us. That underpins the establishment of that position.

Mr Pierce—We might expect that, whilst there is a lot of focus on China at the moment—and appropriately so—looking forward, one can see that the significance of India is only going to get bigger and may well get to the levels that we are currently experiencing in China.

Senator MINCHIN—Can you or the minister reassure this committee that our refusal to sell India uranium is not having any impact whatsoever on India's interest in the purchase of other commodities from Australia in the resources and energy sector?

Mr Pierce—Certainly none that I am aware of.