

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

Question No: AET 162

Topic: Fuel Committee

Hansard Page: E 56

Senator Ryan asked:

Senator RYAN—Is it possible to also provide me with an up-to-date list of who is on the committee and any changes that have taken place in the membership of that committee since 30 April?

Mr Pearson—That is no problem at all. We actually went to senior people and asked the most senior people from the representative petrol companies and from organisations such as the convenience store association, so they have all been attending. I just do not have the exact names with me right now.

Senator RYAN—Can you also provide me with how many times it has met? Also, are there minutes or outcomes of the meeting that are publicly available? If so, are they produced by the ACCC?

Mr Pearson—There are some internal discussions, but one of the things that we attempted to do in bringing these people together was to try to get some discussion between basically supply and demand lobbyists, or the lobby groups representing groups, and ourselves. I would have to take that on notice. At this point, they are not public at this stage.

Answer:

The Fuel Consultative Committee (Committee) was established in 2010 broadly to:

- provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue between the ACCC, the fuel industry and motoring organisations
- provide information to increase the ACCC's understanding of fuel industry issues to assist it in undertaking its role under the then *Trade Practices Act 1974* (now *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*) on issues related to competition and consumer protection in the fuel industry.

A current list of members, and any membership changes since 30 April 2010, is included in the response to AET 161.

The Committee has met twice, in April and November 2010. A third meeting is scheduled for April 2011.

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

There are no publically available minutes of the meetings. However, in general terms, the issues that were discussed in 2010 included:

- alternative fuel developments including biofuels and ethanol
- petrol price cycles
- the structure of the petroleum industry in Australia
- the fuel industry and trade practices compliance
- the ACCC report (Monitoring of the Australian petroleum industry).