

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

Question: Bud 54

Topic: List of Projects Supported Under Measure A5

Hansard Page: E105

Senator Wong asked:

These are the questions that I need answered. Does measure A5 apply to projects approved by the minister for trade? What types of projects are we talking about? For example, are they aid projects? Can we please get a list of projects supported under this measure?

Mr Tilley—I think I can answer one of your questions. I am quite proud of myself. On the one about A5, the tax expenditure statement says specifically, ‘To be approved, projects must be considered to be in the national interest by the Minister for Trade or the minister’s delegate.’

Senator WONG—Correct, yes.

Mr Tilley—Does that answer your question?

Senator WONG—No. I want to know what sorts of projects they are and whether we can get a list of projects that are currently supported under this measure.

Mr Tilley—It looks like I cannot answer your question.

...

Mr Tilley—I will take the question on notice.

Answer:

Measure A5 aims to enable Australian consultants, contractors, and companies to be more competitive for offshore projects. The type of projects eligible under this measure include:

- projects for the design, supply or installation of any equipment or facilities
- projects for the construction of works
- projects for the development of an urban area or a regional area
- projects consisting of giving advice or assistance relating to the management or administration of a government department or public utility

National interest criteria for project approval include employment of Australians, tangible economic benefits, benefits in terms of goodwill or prestige, foreign competition for the project, and net foreign exchange benefit for Australia.

Projects funded or subsidised by AusAID are not considered eligible projects, because they do not meet the net foreign exchange benefit criterion.