

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

Question: Bud 56

Topic: WET – No. of Persons Affected by Measure

Hansard Page: E110

Senator Wong asked:

The Treasurer stated that 90 per cent of wineries will be effectively exempt from WET. Is that right?

Mr Tilley—That is correct

Senator Wong—What are the numbers on that? What is the number of persons actually beneficially affected by the measure?

Mr Tilley—It is 90 per cent of—

Senator WONG—The numbers, not percentages.

Mr Tilley—I do not have that. I am not sure whether Mr Free does.

Mr Free—No. It just refers to 90 per cent of wine producers. It is generally accepted that there are about 1,800 wine producers in Australia. But as to the exact figure that was used we would have to take that on notice.

Mr Tilley—We can take it on notice. We may be able to give you an answer like that tomorrow if we can just find the relevant bit of information.

Answer:

The measure will provide some benefit to all wine producers and the wine industry overall. The producer rebate is expected to result in around 1,600 or about 90% of wine producers having no WET liability.