

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 30 May – 1 June 2006

Question: bet 33 (ACCC)

Topic: Dawson Bill

Hansard Page: Written

Senator CONROY asked:

- (1) In the 2005-6 budget the ACCC was allocated \$20 million over 4 years to implement and administer the Dawson trade practices amendments.

These were the measures contained in Trade Practices Amendment Bill (No.1) 2005. This legislation has not passed the Parliament as the Government has not accepted the amendments made by the Senate.

- (2) Could the ACCC inform the Committee what has happened to this funding?
- (3) Did the ACCC receive the money or has it been re-phased pending the passage of the Bill?
- (4) If the ACCC has received the money. What has it been used for? How is the ACCC legally able to spend it on projects other than what Parliament approved?

Answer:

- (2) The ACCC received the appropriation in the 2005-06 Budget. The ACCC has used the funding to gear up for the anticipated passing of the legislation. A significant portion of the funding remains unspent and is included in the operating surplus for 2005-06 and will be accessed to fund implementation costs once the legislation has passed.
- (3) See 2 above.
- (4) See 2 above.