

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates 29, 30 & 31 May 2007

**Question: bet 38 (ACCC)**

**Topic:                    Petrol Prices – State & Territory Intervention**

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**Senator RONALDSON asked:**

**CHAIR**—I just have a couple of quick questions. Some states have called for federal intervention in relation to petrol prices. As I understand it, the states and territories themselves have the power to intervene if they thought it necessary, both in terms of conducting price inquiries and in capping petrol prices. Can you confirm that my understanding of their powers is correct?

**Mr Cassidy**—I think that is probably right. But if you want a definitive answer, you will probably need to take it on notice. The states have a number of pieces of legislation that relate to petrol retailing, so I would suspect that they—

**CHAIR**—Your initial view is they can but you will take the rest of that on notice, will you?

**Mr Cassidy**—Yes.

**Answer:**

All states and territories have legislation providing for the control of petrol prices in varying circumstances.

All states and territories, with the exception of Queensland and Tasmania, have legislation that can be used to inquire into petrol prices.