

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 105

Topic: Fuel Watch – December Report (ACCC)

Hansard Page: E19

Senator Coonan asked:

Senator COONAN—I would like to come to the timing of this additional work. We have got the report from December 2007. Could you just track through that and tell us when that was presented to government and when did you first have conversations, say, with Treasury about it? We know now that they did a very rigorous test of the information, particularly the information in annexure S.

Mr Samuel—I just missed the first part of that question. You were talking about when something was first presented to government. Was that this report?

Senator COONAN—Yes. It was presented to government presumably about the time of its date.

Mr Samuel—Yes, that is right.

Senator COONAN—18 December or something like that?

Mr Samuel—14 December is the date that it was presented to the minister.

Senator COONAN—When did you first have conversations with Treasury about the data contained in the December report?

Mr Dimasi—I am relying on my memory on this, but I think it was some time in February that we started discussing the data with Treasury, late January or early February. I do have the exact date. We had a series of discussions and conversations over a period of time after that.

Senator COONAN—I am trying to establish the dates in February.

Mr Dimasi—I cannot remember the exact date, but I can certainly provide it to you. It was some time in February. We will take it on notice.

Senator Sherry—Take it on notice and get the information on the precise date.

Answer:

Mr Brian Cassidy, Chief Executive Officer and Mr Joe Dimasi, Executive General Manager, Regulatory Affairs Division met with Treasury on 21 January 2008 and discussed Fuelwatch generally. Subsequent phone discussion about data took place between Joe Dimasi and Treasury. Primary data files were emailed to Treasury on 11 February 2008. Secondary data files were emailed to Treasury on 13 February 2008.