

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

**Question: bet 110**

**Topic: Monitoring of Diesel and LPG Prices**

**Hansard Page: E53-E54**

**Senator Joyce asked:**

**Senator JOYCE**—Have you been given formal monitoring powers under part VIIA in relation to diesel and LPG?

**Mr Cassidy**—No.

**Senator JOYCE**—Why not?

**Mr Samuel**—I would refer that matter to the government, I think.

**Senator JOYCE**—Do you think diesel and LPG are part of the same Fuelwatch scheme? Why don't you have formal monitoring powers on diesel and LPG?

**Mr Cassidy**—Again, our formal monitoring powers have nothing to do with Fuelwatch. It is a separate exercise. The direction was given to us by the government. Again, that is a question that should be directed to the government as to why formal monitoring direction only covers unleaded petrol.

**Senator JOYCE**—Luckily the government is here; Senator Sherry.

**Senator Sherry**—The minister is not here, so I am happy to refer that on.

**Senator JOYCE**—Why has the government not given formal monitoring powers under VIIA for diesel and LPG, especially taking into account the current public outcry with regard to the escalation of diesel prices— diesel being a formative refining of petrol and actually a by-product of the refining of petrol?

**Senator Sherry**—I am happy to take it on notice and provide you with some information.

**Answer:**

The Assistant Treasurer has advised that, in February 2008, he asked the ACCC to have a renewed focus on the informal monitoring of LPG and diesel prices, and to advise him on whether any further powers for the ACCC in this area are necessary or desirable.