

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 115

Topic: Fuel Used by Passenger Vehicles

Hansard Page: E72

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ—All right. We will not take that any further. Mr Cassidy, if you refer to page 1 of the report, 91 per cent of all fuel used by passenger vehicles was petrol. Does that mean when I pull up at a service station, unless I accidentally pull out the diesel bowser, basically all the petrol that is sold on the apron of the service station is covered by that 91 per cent? What I am wondering is: does the unleaded include the premium? Do they still sell super or call it something else—octane whatever it is and biofuel enhanced unleaded? What are we actually talking about? If you do not know, not much rides on it; it is just of interest. Could you take it on notice.

Mr Cassidy—If you look at the footnote on that, we actually got that from an ABS publication, a survey of motor vehicle use.

Senator ABETZ—I was just wondering if you knew.

Mr Cassidy—No, not off the top of my head. But, if you like, we could take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ—If you could, I would be much obliged to you.

Mr Cassidy—We will check that publication and see if there is clarification. For example, does it include on-farm use of petrol for motor vehicles, for argument's sake? Let us take that on notice.

Answer:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Survey of Motor Vehicle Use* 31 October 2006, Cat 9208.0 Updated 19 October 2007 categorised vehicles into the following types: passenger vehicles, freight vehicles (ie light commercial vehicles, rigid trucks and articulated trucks), buses, motor cycles and non-freight carrying trucks.

Of the total fuel consumption of passenger vehicles, 91 per cent was petrol, 4 per cent was diesel and the remainder (5 per cent) was LPG/CNG/dual fuel. The ACCC understands that the “petrol” category includes all types of petrol (including premium).