

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 84

Topic: Fuel Watch – Australian Government Solicitor Advice #1

Hansard Page: E79-E80

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ—The question is: you had sought Australian Government Solicitor's advice. We were told that it was part and parcel of the consultative process with AGS. That is fine. We are now asking: when was the last AGS advice provided in relation to this bill? We are not asking what it was.

Mr French—I cannot recall the precise date. We can take that on notice.

CHAIR—You can take that on notice, if you like, Mr French.

Senator ABETZ—Can I ask: was the AGS involved in the consultations and discussions that took place on 28 May?

Mr French—Yes.

Senator ABETZ—Were they involved in discussions on 29 May?

Mr French—No.

Senator ABETZ—At what stage on 28 May was the last advice received from the AGS?

Ms Holdaway—We had received legal written advice from AGS in the week—

Mr French—It was some time ago.

Ms Holdaway—It was some time ago. I can provide you with that date on notice.

Mr French—We will take that on notice.

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Senator BIRMINGHAM—When was the last advice received from AGS relating to constitutionality?

Mr French—In terms of written advice?

Senator ABETZ—No, any advice.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Let's do both written and verbal.

Mr French—I have said previously we would take on notice when the written advice was provided to us.

Answer:

The last written advice from the AGS was received on 28 May 2008.

The last oral advice was provided by the AGS on 28 May 2008 in a meeting at the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.