

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 92

Topic: Fuel Watch – ACCC #3

Hansard Page: E95

Senator Coonan asked:

Senator COONAN—I know you have not analysed this, but can you confirm now—and, if not, can you confirm for me when you have had a chance to consider it—that the results on page 4 of the further analysis released by the ACCC on 29 May appear to show that there was a structural break eight months before Fuelwatch was introduced?

Ms Holdaway—Just looking at the table that is provided, it highlights that it was around May 2000 where the structural break commenced or occurred.

Senator COONAN—That was eight months before FuelWatch was introduced?

Ms Holdaway—I am not sure of the exact time that FuelWatch was introduced in WA and how much of it was discussed beforehand.

Senator COONAN—Can you take this on notice: is it not a fact that the results of the analysis appear to show that there was a structural break eight months before FuelWatch was released in WA? I think you will find that the answer to that is yes, but I will wait for you to confirm it.

Answer:

There was a structural break approximately eight months before FuelWatch commenced in WA. It should be noted that the Select Committee on Petroleum Products Pricing in Western Australia in April 2000 recommended “(t)hat legislation be developed and implemented requiring retail sites to advertise and charge only one price for each fuel product daily.” (Page xvii of the Committee October 2007 report — *Getting a fair deal for Western Australian motorists.*)