

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

**Question: bet 94**

**Topic: Grocery Prices**

**Hansard Page: E104**

**Senator Coonan asked:**

**Senator COONAN**—I gather from your answer—correct me if I am incorrect in asserting this—that Treasury would not have done any particular analysis of what this measure is all about or what it is going to cost?

**Mr Murphy**—If it is a budget measure—and I personally have not looked at it—it would be reviewed by the Treasury, and by the Treasurer before it was put forward. And Finance would have run the ruler over it as well. This was a budget where they were seeking to save money. Obviously a case is put forward for the community's benefit that, if they do this work, we will get some good results.

**Senator COONAN**—At the moment you do not have any detail at all?

**Mr Murphy**—No. But we can get you that. We will get it. But all budget proposals have a policy proposal that goes with them. We can dust that off and provide you with some written information. We have to do that. We will convert that into some meaningful information for you and provide it.

**Senator COONAN**—I am not quite sure what 'meaningful' is, but I gather, just to be clear about it, that what you will do is try to give me what information you can about how this would in the broad term be implemented?

**Mr Murphy**—Yes.

**Senator COONAN**—What it is going to involve, what kind of items it will include, where it will be, that sort of thing?

**Mr Murphy**—Yes.

**Senator COONAN**—It is a national scheme?

**Mr Murphy**—Yes. I will see if I can get down to the fruit and veg and whatever as best I can.

**Answer:**

On 5 August 2008, the Government established the new GROCERYchoice website at [www.grocerychoice.com.au](http://www.grocerychoice.com.au). The website provides consumers with monthly price information for typical baskets of groceries (for example, meat and seafood, fruit and vegetables, dairy and general groceries) across Australia. This will assist consumers to locate the cheapest supermarket chain in their area.