

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2008-09

2 June 2008

Question: **BR-14**

Topic: **Advice from the Petroleum Refining and Retail
Section to the Minister on FuelWatch**

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Senator Johnston asked:

Senator JOHNSTON—With respect particularly to FuelWatch, has there been advice from your section to your Minister?

Dr Boxall—Yes.

Senator JOHNSTON—Roughly, when was that given?

Mr Hartwell—There would have been a number of advices given to the Minister in relation to FuelWatch—not on FuelWatch specifically but on a whole range of advice in relation to what we call the retail-petroleum refining issues. FuelWatch may have been included as a component part of that, but for obvious reasons, given the range of activities in that section, it could have been a component part. I would have to go back and check the specifics.

Answer:

The Department of Resources, Energy & Tourism provided briefing to the Minister on the contents of the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC) report into petrol pricing on 20 December 2007. Additional written briefing was provided to the Minister in the context of the Government's deliberations on the full response to the ACCC report.