

RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO
Budget Estimates 2008–09

Written Questions on Notice

Q No	Senator	Agency	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Appointments and programs</i>						
<u>BR-1</u>	Fierravanti-Wells	DRET	<p>1. What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-government organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources, Energy and Tourism <p>2. Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources, Energy and Tourism <p>3. In relation to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:</p> <p>a) What programs, initiatives, or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>b) What programs, initiatives, or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?</p> <p>4. Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website http://www.alp.org.au/ constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd</p>	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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			<p>Government within the following portfolios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources, Energy and Tourism <p>If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?.</p>			
Crude oil excise						
<u>BR-2</u>	Cormann	DRET	<p>Has the Federal Government, either at the Minister's level or at a departmental level, received any written representations in relation to the proposed \$2.5 billion imposition of excise on condensate produced offshore by the North West Shelf Joint Venture?</p> <p>What was the content of those representations?</p> <p>Will a copy of those written representations be made publicly available?</p> <p>What action, if any, has been taken by the Government as a result of those representations?</p>	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
Historical crude oil price comparison						
<u>BR-3</u>	Cormann	DRET	<p>1) What was the maximum and minimum oil price in the period January 1980 to January 1982?</p> <p>2) What was the maximum and minimum oil price in the period January 2004 to January 2006?</p> <p>3) What was the maximum and minimum oil price in the period January 2006 to January 2008?</p> <p>Just making sure that it is understood that the question [above] to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism assumes and implies comparison in real terms, i.e. a real oil price comparison based on say January 2008 or January 2007.</p>	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

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Oral Questions on Notice

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Pluto gas project</i>								
BR-4	Cormann	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator CORMANN—I will ask these questions of Treasury then. Woodside, in my home state of Western Australia, has a major gas project, Pluto, which is expected to come online by the end of 2010. You gave an indication before that PRRT payments would be expected in the five to 10 year range and sometimes later. What would be your assessment in relation to Pluto?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I do not think at this point in time I could answer that question. Essentially it depends on a whole range of factors. The final cost of the Pluto project and the final revenue estimates in terms of what they might realise on sales are things that we just do not have figures on at this point in time. I cannot really answer that question.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Do you expect it to be less than five years?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Again, I cannot answer that question.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Can you take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I can take it on notice, obviously, but I am not sure that we could come up with a precise answer.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—I am looking for an indicative answer.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—It would always depend on judgements on a whole range of issues and on the information being provided by the project proponent, which is not always a guarantee.</p>	E72	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Petroleum resource rent tax (PRRT)</i>								
BR-5	Cormann	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator CORMANN—In your experience, has there been any project since the PRRT arrangements have been in place that</p>	E72	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>paid PRRT sooner than five years?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I cannot answer that question. We could possibly check that, and it is a question you could ask of the Treasury portfolio. We could have a look at that one.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Thank you very much.</p>				
<i>Shale oil</i>								
BR-6	Joyce	Geoscience Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Senator JOYCE—Where I am heading to is competitiveness of alternative products. What is your knowledge of Australia's shale oil reserves and what do you believe to be the current volume of Australian shale oil reserves?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I think this is more a technical question that we could certainly direct to our colleagues from Geoscience Australia. We are aware, depending on various prices, that there are considerable shale oil reserves, but I might ask my Geoscience Australia colleagues if they can provide you with a better answer.</p> <p>Dr Foster—In relation to shale oil reserves, we would have to take that on notice. As you know, that is a state issue onshore but we will be able to furnish you with that detail.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—Can you also furnish for us who actually has the leases on those reserves at the moment?</p> <p>Dr Foster—That would come through the Queensland government. We can get that information for you.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—That is quite right. Most shale oil reserves are certainly onshore so they do not fall under Commonwealth jurisdiction.</p>	E73	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Petrol and diesel price comparisons – pre-tax</i>								
BR-7	Joyce	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator JOYCE—Is that by reason of our taxing regime or is that by reason of—</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Again, it is like petrol prices/diesel prices; there is a whole range of factors that will be relevant. Obviously international prices are one, but there is a whole</p>	E76	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>range of other issues that will bear on that. It can be a result of the various taxes that might be applied at the petrol bowser or the diesel bowser. It can be a result of specific competition policy issues between various petroleum retailers in areas. It may depend also on the locale and the cost of distributing the product. There is a whole range of factors.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—If we take out government taxes, are our prices more competitive or less competitive than other OECD countries?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I do not have that specifically in front of me, but I could get a table for you which could answer that question. I think that would be the case.</p>				
<i>Parity price transport component on indigenous oil</i>								
BR-8	Joyce	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator JOYCE—Dealing with parity pricing, we have a transport component on parity pricing, do we not?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Yes, I think that is right. I would have to go back and check the details on parity pricing.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—That is a transport component from where overseas, which we actually put on our own domestic oil?</p> <p>Mr Pegler—All our parity pricing is based on ex-Singapore.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—So we have a parity price on which we put a transport component of 300,000 barrels of oil a day as being transported from Singapore but which are actually sourced in Australia?</p> <p>Mr Pegler—That is correct.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—How much does that cost the motorist?</p> <p>Mr Pegler—I cannot comment on that. We do not have those figures.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Pegler—I doubt if we can extract them, but we can have a look. It will depend on a whole host of factors in terms of refinery throughput, refinery profitability and issues like that. It will not directly correlate when—</p>	E77	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				Senator JOYCE —I would be interested to find that out.				
<i>Opposition briefing on flow-through shares</i>								
BR-9	Johnston	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Mr Hartwell—There will always be varying views about the appropriateness of such a scheme. All I can say to you is that we are working with Treasury on the design of a flow-through share scheme. They are not new. Under the previous government, as you would be aware, we looked at a couple of models. We are at the moment having some discussions with Treasury. We are also working with the minister and the minister's office and we do hope to at least have a document on which we can then consult other stakeholders towards seeing if we cannot get some agreement on the broad framework for a scheme.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Is there any advance on the time lines with respect to maybe even a white paper?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I do not think we would title it as a white paper. But can I say we would hope to at least have a consultative document on the broad framework of the scheme available towards the end of June.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Towards the end of this month. Minister, what would your attitude be towards briefing the opposition with respect to that policy?</p> <p>Senator Carr—It is a matter we will take up with the minister directly. I am representing the minister here, so we will take that on notice and raise that matter with him.</p>	E79	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Radioactive waste management</i>								
BR-10	Milne	DRET	02/06/2008	Senator MILNE —I believe Minister Ferguson received a letter on 22 April this year from 28 traditional owners of the Muckaty land trust asking for clarification about the proposed waste dump at Muckaty, and the letter says, 'We want the government to stop and listen to us, take our word and we say no.' Do you know whether Minister Ferguson has responded to those traditional owners yet and	E81 & E83	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>what he has actually said?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I will let the officers take this. But on the previous question, when I did have responsibility for this area of policy it was fair to say that there was a range of opinions from Indigenous land holders in regard to this particular site. There was not a unanimous view in regard to a response to Muckaty station. I will let the officers deal with the latest correspondence.</p> <p>Mr Davoren—I think the important thing to note is that there are a number of estate clans in the Muckaty trust. The people that have volunteered their land did so at meetings convened by the Northern Land Council under the rules set up under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act. There are people from some other clans who could not reach agreement on hosting a facility on their particular lands, but the particular estate clan that volunteered the land did so, as I understand it, unanimously.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—But that was not my question. My question was: do you know if Minister Ferguson has responded to the letter from 28 traditional owners saying—</p> <p>Mr Davoren—I have not seen the letter in the department.</p> <p>Senator Carr—We will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Surely for the benefit of the people at Muckaty it would have been a courtesy to let them know that the reference to them does not mean that the site has been selected. You can appreciate from their point of view that they see \$3.8 million put aside for the EIS and they see Muckaty mentioned in the papers. Their assumption is obviously that the site has been chosen; it is them. Can I have some indication that the government will inform the traditional owners and others, and the Northern Territory, too, presumably?</p> <p>Mr Davoren—That error was made clear to the Northern</p>				

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				<p>Territory Department of Health and to the Northern Land Council, which represents the interests of the Muckaty traditional owners in relation to land issues.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—So they have already been informed—</p> <p>Mr Davoren—Yes.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—through the land council. If Minister Ferguson has responded to the traditional owners in that letter, presumably it will also be pointed out to them in that, but I will wait to get that on notice.</p>				
Radioactive waste management								
BR-11	Milne	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator MILNE—I understand, Senator Carr, you made a pre-election commitment that the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act would be repealed if Labor was elected. Can you tell me when it will be repealed?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I will leave that question to the officers.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—That matter is under consideration.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—It is under consideration in the department. What instructions do you have?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—The government has that under consideration.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I am at a loss to understand that. The Prime Minister has said that every election commitment will be fulfilled to the last letter. And it was to repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act. Let me put it another way. Has any work been done—</p> <p>Senator Carr—What I can say to you is that the government is committed to implement its election promises. The government has been in office for six months and I do not believe it is reasonable to expect that all election promises will be implemented at the same time.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—That is absolutely right. I can understand that, but I am asking whether this one is going to be upheld. Will this act be repealed and, if so, when?</p> <p>Senator Carr—That is a matter that I will have to take on notice. The relevant minister has carriage for the</p>	E82	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				implementation of this area of policy. Senator MILNE —Again, people are going to be very interested in that one, as you can well imagine.				
<i>Australian Uranium Association report</i>								
BR-12	Milne	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator MILNE—I note recently that the minister has been talking up an Australian Uranium Association report predicting massive future increases in the South Australian economy as a result of uranium mining. Did the department have any input into, do any assessment or analysis of the Australian Uranium Association's report?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—That report was commissioned by the Australian Uranium Association and prepared by Deloitte. No, we did not have any specific input into that report. That was commissioned by the Australian Uranium Association and produced by an independent consultant.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Have you done any assessment of that report?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—We have provided the minister with just a broad summary of the report and basically the workings around it. But that is as far as it has gone.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Were you satisfied that the report was accurate?</p> <p>Dr Boxall—That is calling for us to give a judgement on the quality of the report, which we are not permitted to do.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I accept that. But I am trying to get to whether the department made any analysis of it other than just summarising it.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—We just summarised the report. We briefed the minister on a whole range of issues.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I understand that the report's projection for the number of nuclear reactors to be built in the coming two decades is actually 80 per cent higher than the forecasts of the world's leading global energy agencies, the IAE and the IAEA. Would you take a question on notice to look at the report's</p>	E83-E84	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>projections and see whether that is in fact true?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—We can look at the issue of a discrepancy between what was in the report and the IAEA.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Also, I understand that in that report uranium prices are modelled at US\$100 a pound, which is way above the recent spot price of about US\$75 a pound. Could you also have a look at that modelling?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—If you look at the report, which is a public document, you will see that there is a number of scenarios around uranium prices and uranium demand. It has a high scenario, a medium scenario and low scenario. There is a whole range of prices within that report. Senator MILNE—Yes, I understand there are several scenarios, but by not presenting the conservative scenario based on lower price forecasts and realistic demand, the report and therefore the minister are on the public record basically underestimating the risks and dramatically overstating the potential. That is why I would like to look to you as a department, before we embrace all of these uranium initiatives, to look at how realistic the conclusions of that report are. Can I also ask whether that report assumes a carbon price of US\$50 a tonne?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I would have to go back and check. There are a number of assumptions and a number of models built into the report. As to the various detail of the report, someone has just thrown a copy of it in front of me, but I would prefer to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Yes. I would like to know whether it does assume a US\$50 price on carbon, in which case, if that is what the minister thinks is realistic, that will be an interesting discussion that we will have.</p>				
Otway Basin Project								
BR-13	Johnston	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator JOHNSTON—How far did the pipe convey the liquid, do we know?</p> <p>Ms Sewell—Off the top of my head, it is only a few</p>	E87	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				kilometres. We could verify that for you.				
<i>Advice from the Petroleum Refining and Retail Section to the Minister on Fuelwatch</i>								
<u>BR-14</u>	Johnston	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator JOHNSTON—With respect particularly to FuelWatch, has there been advice from your section to your minister?</p> <p>Dr Boxall—Yes.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Roughly, when was that given?</p> <p>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.</p>	E99	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Petroleum exploration</i>								
<u>BR-15</u>	Milne	Geoscience Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Senator MILNE—I can appreciate that. Can you tell me how many of the projects in the work program for this year provide direct support for petroleum exploration and at what dollar value?</p> <p>Dr Williams—I will just ask Dr Foster.</p> <p>Dr Foster—I can give you some numbers for the precompetitive work that will be undertaken this year in the 2008-09 program. It will be in the order of the offshore energy program. We will be acquiring about \$11 million worth of data. I can give you the rest of the detail on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—If you could do that it would be appreciated.</p>	E105	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Regional tourism projects</i>								
<u>BR-16</u>	Macdonald	DRET	02/06/2008	Senator IAN MACDONALD —Can you tell me which of those 12 projects is in an electorate not held by the Australian Labor Party?	E118, E119 & E123	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>Ms Madden—No, I am not able to answer that question. We do not do that analysis.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Do you know which electorate they are in?</p> <p>Ms Madden—I do not.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—There is an overnight and experience heritage of Parramatta. Parramatta, as you would be aware from your local knowledge, is in a Labor seat?</p> <p>Dr Boxall—We have not done this analysis.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Senator Sherry, perhaps, you could answer. You would know that is a Labor seat.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I would need to know—</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—The ones in Tasmania definitely are?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Yes—Tassie I can vouch for because I know we hold all five seats in Tasmania. But I am not sure of the boundary of Parramatta and where that would be located. I am happy to take it on notice and provide you with the answer.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD Thank you. Bateman's Bay township as a holiday destination. Bateman's Bay would be in the Labor electorate of Eden-Monaro?</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—It is not actually; it is in the one further north, which you hold.</p> <p>CHAIR—The minister is going to take it on notice—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—He is taking on notice about Parramatta—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I think it is in Gilmore but, before we start speculating about which towns and regions are in which electorates, we will take it on notice and we will get you an accurate outline.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Sorry, Minister, I have forgotten your importance in these estimates.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I think you have forgotten where you are</p>				

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				<p>now. Just one point you made earlier which was incorrect and which is why I offered to be helpful and take the information on notice: you made a claim that they all appeared to be in Labor electorates. That is not correct. At least one is in Ms Joanna Gash's electorate of Gilmore. There may be others. I am happy to take on notice the analysis in order to ensure you have an accurate picture.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD-Thank you.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Sherry—No, that is not right. You have already partly accepted the Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive. We did discuss that one earlier and I did clarify that one for you.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You told me, but whether I have accepted it is another issue.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Sorry, Senator O'Brien, your question?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is that in Maranoa?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—In the seat of Maranoa? You may be right and, again, it may be one of those. I will take on notice the seats they are in.</p>				
Regional tourism projects								
BR-17	Macdonald	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Dr Boxall—Yes. That was the testimony given earlier by Mr Calder.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—The proponents are all clearly identified, are they?</p> <p>Mr Calder—That is right.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You can tell me exactly who are the proponents of these 12 projects?</p> <p>Mr Calder—I do not have that detail—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—No, but you can. I will take that on notice and make that available.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take it on notice. You will not take it on notice, I will take it on notice, and be pleased to provide the</p>	E118	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				information for you.				
<i>Consultations with tourism operators</i>								
BR-18	Macdonald	DRET/ Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you. Has the department and Tourism Australia, bless their soul, had consultations with actual tourism operators at the coalface who deal with international tourism?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I do not need individual names, but in a broad sense can you tell me with whom you had the consultations?</p> <p>Ms Madden—The department consults widely with the tourism industry at a whole range of levels, with a whole range of stakeholders. As you have acknowledged tonight it is such an important industry, so there are many varied players. We are also aided in our consultation by having a number of industry groups representing some of those stakeholders. The National Tourism Alliance represents a very large number of small and medium-sized tourism operators. We also have the Transport and Tourism Forum, TTF, which represents 200 of the larger companies and industry groups that are operating in the tourism area. There are a number of other bodies that we consult with, as well as consulting directly with some tourism operators.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is the last bit that I am interested in. Have you consulted directly with actual inbound tourism operators?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Would it be too difficult to take on notice who they were, or are there privacy issues involved?</p> <p>Ms Madden—I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Are there privacy issues involved?</p> <p>Dr Boxall—We will check on that and take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I know you consult with peak</p>	E124-E125	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				bodies, but you would also be aware in the industry that there is some thought that the tourism peak bodies could represent wholesalers rather than the actual deliverers of the product, so you will take that on notice.				
<i>Business Events Australia</i>								
<u>BR-19</u>	Birmingham	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Thank you. Business Events Australia is a new or relatively new marketing arm for meetings, incentives, et cetera, within TA; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—We have had a business events unit for some time, since Tourism Australia was set up. It is just that we have revamped it over the last 12 months and put a lot of effort particularly into developing up a unique brand position for the business events component of the travel market.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—What resources have been committed to that unit over the last financial year?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—The total budget for business events for 2007-08 was \$5.737 million.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Dare I ask for the next financial year?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—I am sorry.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—You might need to take that on notice.</p>	E132	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Tourism market profile - Korea</i>								
<u>BR-20</u>	Eggleston	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Mr Buckley—Those from the Korean market?</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Buckley—I have some details here on the market, but not a complete profile with me. We do have that as Tourism Australia markets in 23 markets around the world and we do evaluate the profiles. The average is not necessarily a good way of measuring the length of stay because there are some very long stays in terms of students and others versus short-stay leisure. If you are interested, I could provide you with a profile of the</p>	E127	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				market. Senator EGGLESTON —I would be very interested if you could do that. Mr Buckley —We will take that on notice.				
<i>Impact of efficiency dividend</i>								
<u>BR-21</u>	Bushby	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	Senator BUSHBY —I will move on. I think we have probably answered my next question in the course of that, which was to do with an undertaking given by you, Mr Buckley, to Senator Birmingham at the last estimates that hopefully you would be able to explain how the efficiency dividends will play out, but we are not quite there yet. Mr Buckley —No, we are not. Senator BUSHBY —When do you expect to be in a position to know? Mr Buckley —The board next meets on 16 June. Senator BUSHBY —Will you be finalising it at that point? Mr Buckley —That would be the aim. Senator BUSHBY —Will you be able to take those questions on notice, subject to the outcome of that board meeting? Senator Sherry —Yes, we will take those on notice, Senator.	E129	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Passenger movement charge, passport and visa costs</i>								
<u>BR-22</u>	Bushby	DRET	02/06/2008	Senator BUSHBY —That is okay. Since the budget we have had a number of media reports about the passenger movement charges and the passport and visa costs. For example, there have been a number of comments from industry people. The Australian Tourism Export Council hit out at the decisions to raise departure tax and increase visa-processing fees. We have already discussed the high Australian dollar and you mentioned some of the additional challenges facing our tourism operators when they are looking at overseas markets. The managing director of the Australian Tourism Export Council stated that at a time when the tourism industry is struggling to cope with the high Australian dollar and rising business costs, such as fuel,	E130-E131	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>food and labour, this has made our job of opening up new export markets for Australia much harder. Is this a fair way of approaching tourism, using it as a way of raising funds, whether it is for additional security risks or not? Given the challenge we are already facing, is this something that is beneficial to the tourism industry?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—It is not for me to comment on government policy.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Perhaps the minister might like to comment on this?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I am happy to take it on notice. It is for the Minister for Tourism, Mr Martin Ferguson, to comment.</p>				
No Leave, No Life program								
BR-23	Birmingham	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Mr Buckley, can you give me an update on where the No Leave No Life program is at, please?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—It has been through an internal review and we have talked about the program with our board. We are yet to take any further on that program.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—How much was committed to the program in the last financial year?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—I might have to take that on notice. It was a relatively small amount.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Was it a trial at that stage?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—We had already done the major pilot study and we are working with a number of companies around Australia looking at whether that program actually achieved outcomes in terms of additional staff taking leave. We have done some evaluation, but I cannot tell you off the top of my head what the dollar amount would be. It is relatively small at this point.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Certainly, your 2006-07 annual report, insofar as it deals with the program in a dot point, says that 82 per cent of respondents to the survey that you conducted noticed a change to annual leave since their company participated in the program.</p>	E131	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>Mr Buckley—Yes.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Is it the intention of TA to continue funding the program into the next year?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—A final decision will need to be made as to where we go. We were still having discussions with some of the employer organisations to see what they might like to take on. This is much bigger than a tourism issue and certainly the employer organisations are now looking at that opportunity.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Do you want that other question about the amounts to be taken on notice?</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Yes, thank you.</p>				
<i>Spending on domestic tourism marketing</i>								
BR-24	Birmingham	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Mr Buckley—Yes. We have a dedicated tourism unit which facilitates that whole domestic program. Last year we spent, I think, \$6.3 million in domestic marketing, which that unit facilitated.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—How much will you be spending in the new financial year?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—We have not finalised that yet. That will be part of the board's analysis.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Perhaps you could take that one on notice as well.</p> <p>Mr Buckley—Yes.</p>	E131	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Joint marketing exercises with state tourism organisations</i>								
BR-25	Birmingham	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Mr Buckley—No. That is in the domestic area. Internationally, again, it is market by market opportunities, often not with the states. The states and territories do not spend a lot of consumer marketing dollars as a whole. They do spend some, and different states have different allocations for selected markets in which we might do some joint above-the-line advertising and promotion, as we would call it. Most of the cooperative work that we do with states in the international markets is very much in the trade—trade engagement, trade events and other</p>	E132	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				trade development-type programs. Senator BIRMINGHAM —You probably need to take this on notice as well. Could you provide us with the data for the last three financial years of how much you have committed to joint marketing exercises with states both internationally and domestically? Mr Buckley —I will take that on notice, yes.				
<i>Joint marketing exercises with states</i>								
BR-26	Birmingham	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	Senator BIRMINGHAM —Indeed, probably more particularly, how much have the states committed to TA for joint marketing exercises? Mr Buckley —Sometimes it is hard to say, because there are usually cooperative programs that have not only the states but also airlines and wholesalers. It is not a single program with the states only. If I could take it on notice and see what we can deliver to you, that will give you some feel for that. Senator BIRMINGHAM —Thank you.	E132	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Results of advertising campaign</i>								
BR-27	Birmingham	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	Mr Buckley —It is showing broadly positive results particularly for the Western markets for ‘So where the bloody hell are you?’ It is showing less positive results from the East and Asian markets. Senator BIRMINGHAM —Is there some data that you can attach to the more positive and less positive? Mr Buckley —I can provide you with that list. Senator BIRMINGHAM —You have to look at every market and you have to look at the attrition curve for each market. It is not a single figure.	E133	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Tourism Australia Board</i>								
BR-28	Macdonald	DRET	02/06/2008	Senator IAN MACDONALD —Is the board of Tourism	E137-E138	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>Australia at full complement at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—Yes, it is.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—When do the terms of the board members conclude?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—There are four board member terms up at 30 June 2008.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—This year. When will those appointments be announced?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I do not know. I will have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is there a process for appointment of board members? Is the minister required to consult with anyone?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I can advise that four of the members' terms expire on 30 June 2008. The board members will be appointed by the minister in coming months in line with requirements of the Tourism Australia Act and the Commonwealth Agencies and Companies Act of 1997. Then it goes on and says three board membership terms expire on 30 June 2008. I will have to check out the difference between four and three. It is obviously one, but I am not sure why we have a differing number. New board members or existing members will be reappointed by the minister in coming months, and the process is managed by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. The minister must be satisfied board appointees have a high-level expertise in a number of tourism or management related areas as specified in the Tourism Australia Act 2004, for example, international tourism or corporate governance. An appointed member holds office for the period specified in the instrument of appointment—not to exceed three years. It is four by three-year memberships.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—What I am really interested in is whether the minister is required by law to consult and, if not, who will he be consulting with—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—The process I have outlined is what I have</p>				

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				<p>been briefed on. If there are further requirements, I will take it on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you. There has been some comment in the coalface of the industry over recent years that people appointed tend not to be people at the coalface but wholesalers. Whether that is true or not I do not account for, but perhaps you could ask the minister whether he would consider appointing people who have actual hands-on coalface experience?</p>				
Increasing visitor numbers								
BR-29	Macdonald	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—We are running out of time. I would like to talk to you about it. Perhaps you could on notice indicate to me in relatively brief language how you intend to increase the number of— perhaps ‘prospective’ is wrong there—visitors by 110,000. And also, with the next performance indicator, you are maintaining current levels of international leisure visitors to Australia. There was one about business tourism arrivals. I would be interested—</p> <p>Mr Buckley—That is in a different section.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is it in the previous one?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—Yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I would be interested in a short description on notice, because we have run out of time, of how you intend to achieve those goals. Good luck to you in this area.</p>	E138	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
China and India markets – visitor profiles								
BR-30	Birmingham	Tourism Australia	02/06/2008	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—You might need to take this on notice. When the Japanese market was in its boom years for us, the market was synonymous with coordinated group tours to the reef, the rock, and the bridge. Are the growth markets— China and India in particular—showing a greater diversity or are they sticking to the same pattern of approach?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—They actually do disperse slightly differently</p>	E139	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>from the Japanese. We are seeing China grow at such a rate and changing quite significantly in terms of the packages. They are changing their location around Australia and the activity they take on as well. Certainly growth markets like India are very strongly based around Gold Coast and eastern states rather than the rock. But I will take it on notice and give you a profile of those growth markets in terms of the activity and regions, if that helps.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Thank you.</p>				
<i>Regional tourism projects and World Tourism Organisation membership</i>								
<u>BR-31</u>	Macdonald	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Finally, could I ask you to take on notice that on page 285 of budget statement No. 2, Supporting Regional Tourism shows that there is \$2.3 million funded from other sources in the government, in the department, because there is no out-year funding. Similarly, in relation to the United Nations Tourism Organisation there is \$1.7 million. Again, there is no line item in the budget; it simply indicates that it would be paid from existing resources. I am just asking the department again and perhaps you could take this on notice. Are those two additional requirements that the department has to find from its budget in addition to the efficiency dividends? That is the question, if you could take that on notice. The department is no longer here.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take that on notice.</p>	E138-E139	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Regional tourism projects – funding guidelines</i>								
<u>BR-32</u>	Macdonald	DRET	02/06/2008	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—If the milestones that you are going to set are not agreed with the proponents, where do we go from there?</p> <p>Mr Calder—The milestones will be negotiated with the project proponents to achieve the—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You have certain standards, but if the proponent happens to be someone with influence somewhere and does not agree to them, where does the</p>	E119-E120	31/07/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>department stand?</p> <p>Dr Boxall—That is speculative. The department will implement this according to the usual practice of contracting and will seek to negotiate milestones with a proponent.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Of course you will seek to but what if you cannot achieve what you seek?</p> <p>Dr Boxall—If we do not have a contract we cannot disburse the money.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It will be up to the department to insist upon certain basic standards and, if they are not met, then the grants will not be made?</p> <p>Dr Boxall—If they are met the grants will be made.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That was not my question. If they are not, the grants will not be made?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—He is entitled to answer the question in his own words, not in the words that you want.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—If the milestones are not agreed upon then you are not going to be able to honour your election commitment, are you?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—The officer has well outlined what the position will be.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is a very contradictory version. In one instance, you are saying they will be funded because they are election commitments—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Yes, subject to—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Hang on. In the other instance the department is saying that the milestones have to be agreed upon and, whilst they were not prepared to mouth the words—and I understand why and I do not blame them—what they are really saying is that if the milestones are not agreed then they are not going to be funded.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Subject to the criteria and milestones—whatever description you want to use—subject to the criteria laid down by the department.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That is going to be</p>				

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				<p>interesting. In assessing the milestones for these programs does the department act fearlessly and without favour or influence from the minister's office or the minister's advisers?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—There will be criteria set down; the department will obviously keep estimates well informed, as well as the minister and the proponents, about the criteria that need to be met and they will be reported.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Again, thank you, but that was not quite the question. There are certain standards that an independent public service implements and I am just wanting perhaps an assurance from you that the Public Service will not be leaned on or be rung at 3 am to—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I can certainly assure you on behalf of Minister Ferguson that he will not be leaning on the department or ringing them at 3 o'clock in the morning. I believe I can give that assurance.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. I have done something for you people at the table. You will not get a call at 3 am?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Yes, that is right, but I will take the question on notice.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I will quite clearly be watching these at future estimates and we will be watching very carefully the criteria that are issued.</p>				