

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 2 June – 4 June 2009

Question: bet 87

Topic: MMRF Model – Other Manufacturing Breakdowns

Hansard Page: E108-109

Senator Joyce asked:

Senator JOYCE—In your modelling as you transitioned people into other forms of jobs, where were those jobs? Whereabouts were these people working? Where do they end up in the equilibrium model?

Ms Quinn—To the general shift between higher emission-intensive industries to lower emission-intensive industries. There is a table 6.12—

Senator JOYCE—Give me an example of the top three?

Ms Quinn—There are increases in the electricity supply for renewable energy.

Senator JOYCE—What are those people doing?

Ms Quinn—The supply of renewable energy covers all types of renewable energy such as hydro, wind, geothermal, potentially by 2050—

Senator JOYCE—When these people go off to work, what are they actually doing? What do they look like? Are they construction workers, electricians or accountants?

Ms Quinn—In terms of the breakdowns in this table in particular, the electricity supply ‘other’ are those people working in the actual production of electricity by those industries, so they would be the people who are looking after, let us say, the wind farm. They would be people who were doing the operation of the wind farm. The construction component would be captured by the construction sector—

Senator JOYCE—As to the operation of a wind farm, what does a person who is operating a wind farm actually do?

Ms Quinn—I am not a technical engineer, so I do not think I can answer that question.

Senator JOYCE—Have you been out to a wind farm lately.

Ms Quinn—I have seen a wind farm, yes.

Senator JOYCE—How many people did you see working there?

Ms Quinn—There was a person taking me around, but I do not know.

Senator JOYCE—Generally, no-one.

Ms Quinn—I do not know. There must be some.

Senator JOYCE—Have you been out to a coalmine lately?

Ms Quinn—Not lately.

Senator JOYCE—From what you see of them on television, does it seem like many people are working there?

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 2 June – 4 June 2009

Ms Quinn—There has been a reduction in the share of employment in the mining industry in general as people have moved to more capital.

Senator JOYCE—What is the next one after—

Ms Quinn—Forestry.

Senator JOYCE—What are people doing in forestry?

Ms Quinn—I presume they are looking after trees.

Senator JOYCE—Have you been to a forest lately?

Ms Quinn—Yes.

Senator JOYCE—Did you see many people wandering around working?

Ms Quinn—I am not an expert on the particular industrial structure of these industries, so I am not sure I am the appropriate person to answer these questions.

Senator JOYCE—Let us go to the next one. What is your third one?

Ms Quinn—They are spread over quite a large number of industries—

Senator JOYCE—Just give me another one.

Ms Quinn—Give me a moment. ‘Other manufacturing’.

Senator JOYCE—‘Other manufacturing’?

Ms Quinn—Yes.

Senator JOYCE—What are they actually manufacturing in ‘other manufacturing’?

Ms Quinn—There are a whole range of manufacturing industries. I can give you the breakdown but I cannot—

Senator JOYCE—Just give me one.

Ms Quinn—I would have to check the categories. I know that it is not—

Senator JOYCE—There must be one that pops into your head.

Ms Quinn—I know what it is not. It is not motor vehicles, metals or metal products, but I am not sure what else it covers.

Senator JOYCE—Can you think of anything in the ‘other manufacturing’ category because it is such a big one?

CHAIR—Ms Quinn has already said that she will get back to you on notice.

Senator JOYCE—I am just looking for those green jobs. We had better start finding them now. We are having a bit of trouble.

Answer:

The ‘Other Manufacturing’ category of the Monash Multi-Regional Forecasting (MMRF) model referred to in the question includes: prefabricated building manufacturing; furniture manufacturing; jewellery and silverware manufacturing; and toy and sporting good manufacturing.