

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 219

Topic: Average Petrol Prices in Remote Australia

Hansard Page: Written

Senator MACDONALD asked:

1. What is the average of petrol prices paid for retail petrol for outlets in Remote Australia compared to the Australian average for any given period?
1. What is the definition of Remote Australia for the purposes of the Australian Bureau of Statistics?

Answer:

1. The ABS collects consumer prices across the eight capital cities for the Consumer Prices Index. The ABS does not collect any consumer price information for petrol prices for regional or remote Australia.

1. The ABS defines a Remoteness Structure as part of the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ABS Cat. No. 1216.0). The purpose of the structure is to classify Census Collection Districts (CDs) which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs).

The delimitation criteria for RAs are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) developed by the University of Adelaide. ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest urban centre in each of five size classes. Values for ARIA range from 0 to 15 as remoteness increases.

There are six remoteness areas in the ABS Remoteness Structure and they are:

- Major cities of Australia (ARIA score 0 to 0.2)
- Inner Regional Australia (ARIA score 0.2 to 2.4)
- Outer Regional Australia (ARIA score 2.4 to 5.92)
- Remote Australia (ARIA score 5.92 to 10.53)
- Very Remote Australia (ARIA score greater than 10.53)
- Migratory – composed of offshore, shipping and migratory CDs

More information on the Remoteness Structure, including a map of Remoteness Areas is available on the ABS web site at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/remoteness+structure>