

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 303

Topic: Building the Education Revolution projects

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Eggleston asked:

How many BER projects are you investigating? How much spending does this account for? What would be the saving to the taxpayer if these projects were at the appropriate cost?

Answer:

The ACCC is conscious of media reports in relation to the BER, some of which refer to possible competition issues. Further information and assessment in relation to a number of these concerns failed to substantiate trade practices issues.

The ACCC has nevertheless engaged in liaison with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the BER taskforce with a view to advise of the type of trade practices competition issues that can arise in any industry—in this case the construction industry—and to encourage reporting of any such issues that may come to their attention.

The ACCC has more recently made similar approaches with the State and Territory education authorities and is making direct approaches to industry participants to draw their attention to competition issues that can arise, as well as to encourage reporting of such issues to the ACCC.