

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Budget Estimates**

1 June – 3 June 2010

**Question: BET 56**

**Topic: Building the Education Revolution**

**Hansard Page: E65 (02/06/2010)**

**Senator EGGLESTON asked:**

**Senator EGGLESTON**—I would like to move on to a different subject, which is developing and monitoring programs. The fiscal group has responsibility within Treasury for policy development in education, and its mission statement is ‘to ensure government spending arrangements are effective’. First of all, I would be grateful if you could explain the department’s role in relation to the Building the Education Revolution, a program that had a \$1.7 billion blow-out, and its effectiveness has been questioned around the country. What was your role in developing that program?

**Mr Ray**—We provided advice to the Treasurer during the course of that policy’s development.

**Senator EGGLESTON**—How long was the Treasury given to analyse the policy and provide advice. How long did you have to do this?

**Mr Ray**—The policy was announced in the first week of February 2009. The policy development work around that package commenced in 2008, but whether that particular component of that package—I would need to take it on notice.

**Answer:**

The Treasury provided advice in the context of the Government’s development of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan. Treasury became aware of a proposal on school infrastructure spending in the context of need for fiscal stimulus in mid January 2009. Further to this, Treasury also provided advice in late 2008 on a school infrastructure proposal.