

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 80

Topic: New Release DVDs

Hansard Page: E107 (02/06/2010)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

Senator BUSHBY—Can the commission indicate if the supermarket chains lodged a notification under the Trade Practices Act in relation to exclusive dealing involving the DVDs?

Mr Samuel—We are not aware that they have, Senator.

Senator BUSHBY—But you can check it and take it on notice, just to make sure? Thank you. Can you indicate the length of time it took to investigate the matter?

Mr Cassidy—Sorry?

Senator BUSHBY—The length of time it took to investigate.

Mr Bezzi—We received the matter on 9 December and we closed it on 24 March.

Answer:

Supermarket chains have not lodged any exclusive dealing notifications in relation to general exclusive dealing conduct involving new release DVDs.

In the past, notifications have been lodged involving a specific promotion for the release of a particular movie. For example, Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd proposed to offer to customers the "Star Wars" Trilogy DVD box set at a discount of \$12.50 on condition the customer presents a discount coupon printed on the back of a Hoyts theatre ticket. The promotion commenced on 19 May 2005 and ended on 16 June 2005. This notification was allowed to stand on 11 May 2005.