

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09  
22-23 October 2008

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Toyota

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 23 October 2008, E72-E73)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-39

**Senator ABETZ**—So Toyota was just given a special deal. How did that happen? Did Toyota approach the government and say, ‘Would you mind opening it earlier for us,’ or did we approach Toyota and say, ‘Look, the Prime Minister is in your country; would you agree to something if we threw \$35 million at you because it would make a good photo opportunity’? How did it happen that Toyota got \$35 million from a fund that was not to open until 20 November?

**Mr Paterson**—The government made an announcement in relation to the awarding of that money to be brought forward from the green car fund to secure that investment in Australia.

**Senator ABETZ**—Was Toyota approaching the government, or was the government approaching Toyota?

**Mr Paterson**—There were conversations between the government and Toyota that preceded that announcement.

**Senator ABETZ**—I assumed as much, but who initiated the discussion?

**Mr Paterson**—I will take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

Toyota approached the Government.