

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF SENATOR THE HON KIM CARR

TOPIC: TCF Review

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Thursday 23 October 2008, E77)

QUESTION No.: SI-44

Senator ABETZ—Thank you. I was going to ask a few questions on the TCF review, but I think we can delay them. I was going to ask the minister whether he agrees with Professor Green's implicit assertion that the Australian farmers who use mulesing or intensive techniques are unethical, but I note that the minister at the table has already been asked that from an agricultural perspective. If I might say, you gave a very sound answer, Senator Sherry.

Senator Sherry—It was a very succinct answer.

Senator ABETZ—It is rare that I am able to make that comment about your answers, but I was interested to see whether Senator Carr had a different view of life. I will not invite you to take that on notice.

Senator Sherry—Can I just ask why you were going to raise mulesing here with Senator Carr? I am glad it does not have a Latin name.

Senator ABETZ—Because it came up in the textile review that was undertaken by Professor Green. There is some method to my madness, Senator Sherry.

Senator Sherry—I see the linkage. I will take it on notice...

ANSWER

The Minister does not agree that Professor Green has made an "implicit assertion that the Australian farmers who use mulesing or intensive techniques are unethical".