

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Estimates 22-23 October 2008

Question: sbt 33

Topic: North West Shelf Joint Venture

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cormann asked:

1. Did the Treasurer receive representations from Woodside indicating that the North West Shelf Joint Venture paid about \$8 billion more in secondary taxation over the life of the North West Shelf Project so far than it would have if it had been subject to the PRRT arrangements?
2. Did Treasury assess the Woodside analysis?
3. What action is Treasury taking to address the fundamental taxation inequity faced by the North West Shelf Joint Venture project, compounded further by the \$2.5 billion new excise on condensate?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. No. However, it is noted that in order to make a meaningful comparison of these secondary taxation arrangements, estimates need to be done over the whole life of the North West Shelf project rather than just to this point in time. This is because the revenue profile under the two regimes is very different.
3. Policy settings are a matter for the Government.