

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Estimates 22-23 October 2008

**Question: sbt 84**

**Topic: Operation Sunlight (PC)**

**Hansard Page: E22**

**Senator JOYCE asked:**

Senator JOYCE —My first question is to the minister. I refer him to output 1.1.1: Government commissioned projects. The review of the Operation Sunlight report on overhauling budget transparency has been done. It was completed before 30 June 2008. My question to you, Minister, is: why has that report not been tabled?

Senator Sherry —I will have to take that on notice for you, Senator Joyce. I am sorry I cannot give you any further information. Can I just clarify: did the Productivity Commission have anything to do with Operation Sunlight?

Mr Banks —No.

Senator Sherry —I am bit puzzled as to why you would ask the question here.

Senator JOYCE —It has actually; it is government commissioned projects under output 1.1.1.

Senator Sherry —Okay, I will take it on notice, Senator Joyce. Sorry, 1.1.1? We have dealt with it.

Senator JOYCE —Government commissioned projects.

CHAIR —This is under the Productivity Commission.

Senator Sherry —I will take your question on notice and I will get an answer for you.

Senator JOYCE —You aware of what the report is about?

Senator Sherry —No, I am not. Other than a general knowledge of Operation Sunlight and those issues, but, no, I am not and I will take it on notice for you.

Senator JOYCE —It was into the area of accountability by government.

Senator Sherry —I am aware of that in a general sense but in terms of any detailed analysis, no.

Senator JOYCE —Credit availability.

Senator Sherry —Sorry, just to clarify: 1.1.1 government commissioned projects to the Productivity Commission; Operation Sunlight has got nothing to do with the Productivity Commission.

CHAIR —Nevertheless, Minister, you have undertaken to take it on board.

Senator Sherry —I will, but that is not a question for this area of estimates.

CHAIR —No.

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Senator BUSHBY —Does the Productivity Commission have reserves that are being looked at for Operation Sunlight?

CHAIR —I think it is all academic. The minister will take it on notice.

Senator Sherry —We will take it on notice, and that is drawing a very long bow. On that basis, you could ask—

Senator BUSHBY —I have some information from another agency where they are looking at that and I am just wondering—

Senator Sherry —On that basis, you could ask about Operation Sunlight on almost any program at any estimates. Anyway, I will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

In response to the question from Senator Joyce on the Operation Sunlight Report

Minister Tanner released the Murray report, and the formal government response to its recommendations (including the Operation Sunlight document), on 9 December 2008.