

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: 111

Topic: Monash Uni/Treasury contract cost

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Senator Boswell asked:

Senator BOSWELL: Turning to the MRRF model, I note that in answers to questions on notice from the Senate Select Committee on the Scrutiny of New Taxes, the Treasury has stated that 'it has entered into two contracts with Monash University to undertake both CPRS and carbon tax modelling'. How much did these contracts cost?

Ms Quinn: I am happy to take that on notice. I do not have the precise figures with me.

Senator BOSWELL: I will ask the minister. Will the government negotiate a new contract with Monash to allow the version of MMRF model used by Treasury to be released so it can be subject to public scrutiny? We have asked for the GTEM model to be released; now we are asking for the MMRF model.

Senator Wong: I have two points. One is: I do not propose in any context to give evidence about what might or might not be the subject of commercial negotiations. In relation to the precise detail of the question, I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Treasury engaged the Monash University's Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS) to undertake modifications of the MMRF model for the *Australia's low pollution future: the economics of climate change mitigation* report and to provide expert technical advice for the *Strong growth, low pollution: modelling a carbon price* report. In neither of those contracts did the Treasury acquire the right to publish the MMRF model.

The cost of the contract with Monash University for the 2008 *Australia's low pollution future: the economics of climate change mitigation* report was \$151,400 (GST inclusive) and the contract cost for the 2011 *Strong growth, low pollution: modelling a carbon price* report was \$37,230 (GST inclusive).