

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Additional Budget Estimates Hearings – 14 February 2006

Question: F8

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998

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Senator Sherry asked:

Can you identify the policies announced by, in this case, the government during the election on which work was done prior to the calling of the election? It may have been in part or it may have been in whole. Can you take that on notice?

Answer:

In the course of its normal activities, the Department of Finance and Administration undertakes costings of, and provides advice on, new policy proposals under consideration by the Government. Finance does not publicly disclose the advice it provides to Government.

Finance's costings of a number of Government election commitments noted that part or all of the cost of the commitment had been included in decisions taken prior to the calling of the election and published in the 2004 Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook. In such cases, Finance had undertaken work on those items consistent with its normal role, prior to the calling of the election.

Those Government election commitments where this applied were:

- 100% Medicare: Making GP services more affordable than ever before;
- Increased Funding for Bushfire Preparedness;
- Scoresby Freeway;
- Pakenham Bypass;
- Additional Funding for Regional Arts;
- Promoting an Enterprise Culture;
- Building our National Transport Future;
- The Coalition's Plan for Higher Standards and Values in Schools;
- Securing Australia's Interests; and
- Local Government – Building on our Relationship.