

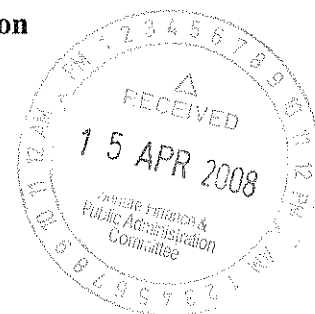
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008



Question: F15 (a) and F15 (b)

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures – Flemington Racecourse

Hansard Page: F&PA 52

Senator Brandis asked:

F15 (a)

Senator BRANDIS—...did Mr Burke report to Mr Tanner, or report to the strategic budget committee of cabinet on which Mr Tanner sat, the results of any consultation with stakeholders in relation to this measure concerning the Flemington Racecourse? Will you take that on notice, please.

Senator Stephens—I will take your question on notice because, of course, I am not a member of either of those committees. I cannot answer that question.

F15 (b)

Senator BRANDIS—Of course. That is why you are taking it on notice.

Senator Stephens—And it is certainly not a question for the departmental officers to respond to.

Senator BRANDIS—Of course—well, perhaps; Dr Watt was at that meeting, I think, and perhaps he might know, but I will not press him on that. Take that question on notice, please. Will you also take on notice the question in relation to the Flemington Racecourse—I am going to give you and the minister whom you represent an opportunity to resile from the absolute terms of your earlier answer: whether, before this decision was taken, any consideration was given to compensating Flemington Racecourse for the consequences of the decision? Will you take that on notice?

Senator Stephens—I will take the question on notice.

Answer:

The decisions taken by the Strategic Budget Committee of Cabinet were made following the provision of departmental advice, and had regard to the possible effects on stakeholders.

It would not be appropriate to provide information on the internal deliberations of Cabinet.