

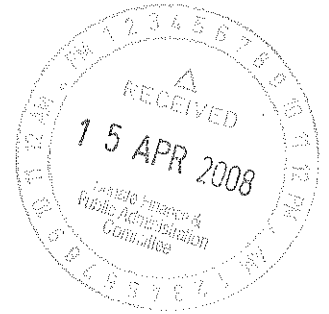
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008



Question: F34

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures - Auslink – Inland rail

Hansard Page: F&PA 65

Senator Brandis asked:

Senator BRANDIS—The next one is: Auslink—inland rail. That was the measure being championed by Mr Everald Compton, wasn't it—to build an inland rail from southern Queensland down to Victoria? Is that the one we are talking about, Dr Watt? ... I again ask the same two questions [refer to question F28] about prior consultation with him and steps taken by Mr Tanner to assess the impact before the decision was made.

Senator Sherry—I will do the same thing.

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. 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.