

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: F43

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures - the Australia-Japan Free Trade Agreement

Hansard Page: F&PA 69-70

Senator Brandis asked:

Senator BRANDIS—Does the next item, ‘Revision of measure—Australia-Japan Free Trade Agreement—commencement of negotiations’, indicate that the date of commencement of negotiations of the Australia-Japan Free Trade Agreement had been postponed?

Dr Watt—No...

Senator BRANDIS—All right. The same two questions please [refer to question F28] in relation to consultation with ministers and steps taken by or on behalf of Mr Tanner to determine the impact on interested persons.

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.