

**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: F50**

**Outcome 1, Output 1**

**Topic: Savings measures – National Plan for Water Security—Murray-Darling Basin Authority**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 72-73**

**Senator Brandis asked:**

**Senator BRANDIS**—On the National Plan for Water Security—Murray-Darling Basin Authority...Can you tell me please whether the minister, who I assume is Senator Wong—she is the Minister for Climate Change and Water, is she not—

**Dr Grimes**—Yes, correct.

**Senator BRANDIS**—was consulted in advance of the making of this decision? Can you tell me please whether Mr Tanner informed himself, either directly or caused others to inquire on his behalf, about the impact on the authority? And can I add to that particular question whether there was consultation with the governments of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia?

**Senator Sherry**—I am happy to seek that information as well, Senator Brandis.

**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.
3. No.