

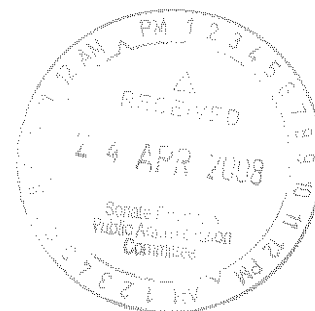
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008



Question: F58

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures – Townsville International Sports Centre

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Senator Brandis asked:

Senator BRANDIS—...I go to the Townsville International Sports Centre, and I am looking at footnote 8. Does footnote 8 reveal a government decision, or is that simply something that is anticipated?

Dr Watt—No, that is a government decision. The previous government decided to fund this entity. The new government has decided to fund it through the Better Regions Program, which is an existing pool of funding.

Senator BRANDIS—Will the Townsville International Sports Centre or its promoters need to apply under the Better Regions Program, or is this, for them, money in the bank?

Dr Watt—As far as I am aware—I emphasise ‘as far as I am aware’ and we are not experts on the program—they will be funded under the Better Regions Program. They may have to apply, but the funding is committed under that program to them. So, rather than them being funded as additional money, stand alone, they will be funded under existing programs.

Senator BRANDIS—You will check that, will you not? And, of course, this is not a reduction because it is simply money that is being taken out of a different pot.

Answer:

It would not be appropriate for the Department of Finance and Deregulation to answer questions in relation to programs that are the responsibility of other portfolios. The committee should direct this question to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.