

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2008  
Department of Finance and Deregulation  
Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**



**Outcome 1, Output 1.2**

**Topic: Building Australia Fund**

**Question reference number: F50**

**Type of Question: Hansard**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Fifield asked:**

**Senator FIFIELD**—Which brings me back to my earlier question about whether pre-election commitments would be funded through this mechanism. We have got one example where that is the case, and I guess there could be other examples. Your previous answers about considering the rate of return and the risk profile of capital expended need to be qualified to the extent that there are some pre-existing programs which the government will commit this money to regardless of...

**Dr Watt**—It was also indicated that would be specifically carved out and handled differently from the rest of the Building Australia Fund. I am not aware the government said anything about any other component.

**Senator FIFIELD**—Is it possible to take on notice just to double-check that there are no other ones that some of us may have missed?

**Dr Watt**—We can take the question on notice, yes. I am happy to do that.

**Answer:**

The Budget Papers indicate that the Building Australia Fund will help finance the Government's commitment to invest in a National Broadband Network. The Budget Papers also indicate that it is expected that funding of \$400.0 million will be available for regional telecommunications, subject to the Government's consideration of the Glasson Review.