

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Outcome: 2, Program: 2.1**

**Topic: ASC Pty Ltd**

**Question reference number: F70**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 59, 27 May 2009**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator RYAN asked:**

**Senator RYAN**—At the time, the Minister for Finance and Deregulation said that the current economic climate presented a significant risk to the sale of the ASC. Could you go into more detail as to why this sale, which had been progressing over a number of years and which had incurred quite reasonable costs, was pulled at the last minute?

**Senator Sherry**—Other than to reinforce the comment and observation of the Minister for Finance, I would have thought that in the current climate the sale of almost any asset has been particularly difficult to realise what would be regarded as a reasonable value. This issue has come up in a range of contexts. It is because of the global financial crisis both here and internationally. Beyond that, the government made a decision. The minister has referred to the global financial crisis. I cannot add anything new. I am happy to take it on notice and look beyond that which has been publicly referred to. (If) There are other reasons, and that is perfectly understandable in the current climate.

**Answer:**

As publicly stated in the Government's announcement on 26 February 2009, the Government decided not to proceed with the sale of ASC Pty Ltd because uncertainty in global financial markets presented significant risks to a successful sale of the company.