

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF PARLIAMETARY COUNSEL

**Question No. 113**

**Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:**

With regard to the Government's Fuelwatch legislation:

- (a) how many hours were spent by staff in drafting the Fuelwatch legislation
- (b) did any staff work overtime while preparing the legislation
- (c) if so, how many staff and what hours did each one work by way of overtime
- (d) did the OPC deal with the legislation as a matter of urgency
- (e) how much notice was given in relation to the deadline
- (f) from whom did the instructions and the deadline come in relation to the preparation of legislation, and
- (g) when was the last liaison with Treasury on 27 May 2008, 28 May 2008 and the first communication with Treasury on 29 May 2008 concerning the Fuelwatch legislation?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

- (a) OPC staff do not record the hours spent on particular drafting projects. However, staff have estimated that prior to the introduction of the Fuelwatch legislation approximately 55 hours were spent by drafting staff in drafting the Fuelwatch legislation.
- (b) Yes. Three drafters and three corporate services staff worked outside normal hours on the Bill on 28 May 2008. The drafters are not entitled to paid overtime but work under a flexible working hours arrangement. The three corporate services staff worked overtime.
- (c) The three drafters worked approximately 5 hours 30 minutes each outside normal working hours. The 3 Corporate Services staff worked overtime for 3 hours 10 mins, 3 hours 40 mins, and 3 hours 30 mins respectively.
- (d) Yes
- (e) OPC was advised on the morning of 28 May that the Bill was to be introduced on 29 May.
- (f) Our instructors in Treasury
- (g) OPC does not have any record of communication with Treasury on 27 May 2008 in relation to the Fuel Watch Bills; the last liaison with Treasury on 28 May 2008 was at 22.32 and OPC attended a meeting with Treasury on 29 May 2008 commencing at 09:35.