

ABARE

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Department

Additional Budget Estimates, 15 February 2005

Question: ABARE 01

Topic: Vehicle emissions

Hansard Page: 75

Senator Allison asked:

The report claims that 50 per cent of ethanol and biodiesel plants will be located in Australian major cities and urban centres that are at particular risk from particulate emissions from vehicles. Can you explain why that remark was made and what justification you have for it?

Answer:

It is not correct that the original report claims that '50 per cent of ethanol and biodiesel plants will be located in Australian major cities and urban centres that are at particular risk from particulate emissions from vehicles'.

The extra biodiesel production was, for the purpose of the analysis, assumed to occur on the fringe of a large metropolitan area, within reasonable proximity of the raw feedstock, waste cooking oil. Biodiesel was assumed to account for 13 per cent of additional biofuel production over and above the reference case of no changes to the excise regime.

The extra ethanol production was, for the purpose of the analysis, assumed to occur in regional areas. Ethanol was assumed to account for 87 per cent of additional biofuel production over and above the reference case of no changes to the excise regime.

These assumptions are discussed on pages 162 and 163 of the report.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Department

Additional Budget Estimates, 15 February 2005

Question: ABARE 02

Topic: Particulates generated by industry

Hansard Page: 76

Senator Allison asked:

I want to go to the claim that particulates generated by industry in regional and rural communities represent an equal risk – if not a greater risk – as particulate emissions from vehicles in major urban centres. Why was that claim made, and what is the data that backs it?

Answer:

The unit health costs are taken to be the same for each pollutant, regardless of location (page 130). Epidemiological studies have shown a link between concentrations of toxic substances, including particulate matter, and mortality rates (page 131). Accordingly, the total health costs are lower in rural areas due to lower pollution concentration and less dense population (tables 64 and 65, page 133).