

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2012

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 77

Program: N/A

Division/Agency: (PAR) Policy and Research

Topic: BITRE Report on Transport Energy Futures

Proof Hansard Page/s: 51 (14/02/12)

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: Are you able to table that peer review or anything that was written and provided to the department—the critique, if you will, of 117?

Mr Williamson: We can take that on notice to see what we have. I am saying that because it goes back a number of year and neither Dr Dolman nor myself were around then.

Answer:

The main concerns raised with BITRE by referees were:

- That the analysis underestimated the influence of oil price and enhanced recovery techniques (technological advances which could enable far higher recovery rates).
- Oil from “non-conventional” sources (from deepwater and oil sands/tar production) is now fed into the global crude oil market as any other oil and that new “non-conventional” sources will continue to become “conventional” as production challenges are mastered (in response to price signals).
- That inadequate consideration was given to above-ground strategic (in contrast to geological) factors that are likely to constrain oil supplies in the short to medium-term.
- That data used was too heavily dependent upon sources from ‘peak oil’ proponents which influenced outcomes.

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Topic: Relevant Work in the recent years associated with Transport Energy Futures

Proof Hansard Page/s: 53 (14/02/12)

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: What would you say is the closest that you have got? I am still intrigued as to why this document—I will not use the word ‘pulled’—was not published. What is the closest you could point me to on your website that was published that attempts to do what that report was doing.

Mr Mrdak: I will get Dr Dolman to run through that list of items again, if you do not mind.

Senator LUDLAM: Just the most recent. What is the closest analogue to that document?

Mr Williamson: There are a number of publications and conference papers that deal with these issues. Dr Dolman can give you some examples or we can provide you with a reasonably long list of—

Senator LUDLAM: Time is short; could I just invite you to table the list. I would greatly appreciate that.

Dr Dolman: We can do that.

Answer:

Examples of relevant Bureau work in recent years includes:

BITRE Publications:

- Working Paper 73 Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Australian Transport: Projections to 2020
- Information Sheet 30: Fuel Consumption by New Passenger Vehicles in Australia 1979-2008
- Report 124: Road vehicle-kilometres travelled: estimation from state and territory fuel sales
- Report 127: Traffic Growth in Australia
- Report 128: Traffic Growth Modelling: A global phenomenon
- Australian Low Carbon Transport Future (forthcoming) – co-publication with CSIRO and ARRB

Australian Transport Research Forum Papers:

- Cosgrove, D. Long-term emissions trends for Australian transport
- Gargett, D. Petrol prices in Australia
- Mitchell, D. Australian inter capital freight demand
- Gargett, D. The spread of technology through the vehicle fleet