

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 28

Topic: Tobacco & Alcohol Excise

Hansard Page: pg 116-117, Thursday 18 October 2012

Senator CORMANN asked:

Senator CORMANN:... Are you doing any work in relation to excise changes in relation to either alcohol or tobacco?

Senator Wong: That is the same question, except this time it at least does not refer to an article. But you have referred to an article before.

Senator CORMANN: I have not referred to anything.

Mr Heferen: In relation to providing advice to the government?

Senator CORMANN: Yes. Have you conducted any modelling in relation to a change in excise or customs rates for any of—these are questions that we have pursued many times before and that have always had answers to in the past—

Senator Wong: That is not true.

Senator CORMANN: It is true.

Senator Wong: Let me tell you; I, unfortunately, have apparently been here 10 years—

Senator CORMANN: This government is getting worse in terms of being transparent.

Senator Wong: Let me tell you, you get much more information than I ever got, for example, when I was doing employment and workplace relations and Mr Abetz was the minister.

Senator CORMANN: I just wonder where that information is that you are talking about, Minister. Have you done any modelling? I am not asking you to give me the modelling, I am just asking whether some modelling has been done in relation to changes in excise or custom rates for tobacco or alcohol.

Senator Wong: Ever?

Senator CORMANN: No.

Mr Heferen: Are you talking about the budget measures?

Senator CORMANN: Yes.

Mr Heferen: The budget measure in relation to the duty-free tobacco announced in the budget?

Senator CORMANN: No, not announced in the budget—since the budget.

Mr Heferen: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator CORMANN: Thank you.

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Answer:

We are not able to comment on new policy work being undertaken for the Government, or any work which may or may not be undertaken on tobacco and alcohol excise policy.