

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

**Question: AET 30**

**Topic: Qantas-Emirates**

**Hansard Page: page 119, 13 February 2013**

**Senator XENOPHON asked:**

**Senator XENOPHON:** ...Finally, in relation to the Qantas-Emirates matter, which we have corresponded on extensively, there is an issue of trying to obtain, if not the documents, an index of the documents that Qantas has relied on in respect of its key assertion that it is losing money on international routes. The response that I have had from the FOI officer is that there is no index if we cannot supply it. It is a critical issue not just for me but for other parties, including the TWU and licensed aircraft engineers. Will the ACCC at least consider providing an index of documents, in terms of the documents that were supplied—

**Mr Sims:** I will take it on notice, if you do not mind, Senator.

**Senator XENOPHON:** because I think it is coming up.

**Mr Sims:** As you understand, the issue of terminal decline was not one that was central to our cost-benefit analysis.

**Senator XENOPHON:** That may be an issue of continuing dispute. But thank you very much.

**Answer:**

The ACCC has considered creating the index sought by Senator Xenophon but has estimated that the resources involved in creating such a document would be very substantial.

Further, even if the index were to be created, a decision would need to be made regarding access to the index as it may include information that is exempt from disclosure. Accordingly, any decision regarding access to such an index would involve consultation with Qantas to ensure its rights and interests are also protected.