

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: **SBT 1099**

Topic: **Debt Management Options**

Hansard Page: **48, 20 November 2013**

Senator WONG asked:

1099.

Senator WONG: So do I infer from that and from your answer that therefore the government chose the \$500 billion—from the options?

Dr Parkinson: The matter is clearly a choice for the government and, in outlining those, I was not trying to be comprehensive. I was trying to give the committee a sense of the sorts of options that governments could consider. They are the sorts of options that anybody with familiarity with the issue could work out themselves, but clearly we provided advice and the government, based on our advice, considered the issues and then chose the \$500 billion which is before the parliament.

Senator WONG: Was the \$500 billion one of the options put forward?

Dr Parkinson: I do not think I will go into that.

Senator WONG: I will ask the minister. Was the 500—

Senator Sinodinos: Debt management is more the Treasurer's responsibility.

Senator WONG: You are representing the Treasurer.

Senator Sinodinos: Yes. I would refer it to him.

Answer:

1099. The advice that Treasury provided to the Government in relation to the debt limit is confidential.