

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2007-08

21 February 2008

Question: AR-5
Topic: Ethanol Production Grants Program
Proof Hansard Page: E78

Senator Joyce asked:

Senator JOYCE—Do you think we have been effective in getting ethanol into the market? Do you think the uptake of the program is working well? Are cars now using more biorenewable fuels and helping to reduce our carbon footprint?

Ms Taylor—Over the last 12 months there has been quite a substantial increase in ethanol usage and program. I can give you some numbers in relation to the volumes. For the 2007 calendar year the program funded 110, 304, 231 litres of ethanol. That was up from 60 million litres the year before.

Senator JOYCE—So, that was 110 million litres?

Ms Taylor—Yes, 110.3 million litres. That is essentially about an 80 per cent increase over that calendar year.

Senator JOYCE—Is that uptake by independents? Where did that uptake happen?

Ms Taylor—I do not have those details.

Senator JOYCE—Can you take that on notice?

Ms Taylor—I am not sure that I can find that information.

Senator JOYCE—Tell me if you cannot. I will understand.

Answer:

In calendar year 2007, the Department paid grants under the Ethanol Production Grants Program for 110.3 million litres of fuel ethanol. This compared with grants for 60 million litres of fuel ethanol in 2006.

This funding is paid directly to ethanol producers. Information relating to the distribution of ethanol in the market is not collected through this Program.