

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 29, 30 & 31 May 2007

Question: bet 40 (ACCC)

**Topic: Percentage of Population living in ‘Rural & Regional’
Areas**

Hansard Page: E37

Senator JOYCE asked:

Senator JOYCE—For the record, that is Wobigah with ‘g’. What percentage of the population do you think lives in ‘rural and regional’?

Mr Samuel—I would have to take that question on notice.

Senator JOYCE—I am just trying to work out how big this place is.

Mr Samuel—I would have to take that on notice, but equally I think if I took it on notice I still could not give you an answer because, you see, ‘rural and regional’ are subject to a judgement decision as to what we encompass within ‘rural and regional’. Let me perhaps make it a bit easier for you, if I can, in this context. Do not hang me on then numbers, but Telstra claims for the moment that its next G network covers—I think the figure quoted is—98 per cent of the population.

Answer:

Rural and regional Australia covers those areas outside the capital cities and the metropolitan areas.