

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
2-3 June 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Commercial Ready – Speaking Notes

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 2 June 2008, E50)

QUESTION No. BI-89

Senator ABETZ—Under ‘Commercial Ready Abolition,’ on page 14 of the opposition’s speaking notes, it states: ‘We are told that the government has ceased funding for the previous government’s Commercial Ready program because the evidence shows that it was helping businesses that did not actually need help. Commercial Ready was public money that was badly spent. We undertook the decision necessary to cut wasteful spending.’ Did you authorise and approve that terminology that appears in the backbench speaking notes?

Senator Carr—That is not the language that I have been using.

Senator ABETZ—I know; you go a step further, as you always do, and refer to millionaires but we have already canvassed that aspect. But did you approve of these speaking notes?

Senator Carr—No.

Senator ABETZ—Were they submitted to your office for any input in any way, shape or form prior to the circulation of your backbenchers?

Senator Carr—I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

No.