

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 107

Topic: Fuel Watch - Volume of modelling Information

Hansard Page: E37

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ—That was the point I was making. Mr Samuel, you told Sky News that there were hundreds of pages of modelling and chances are that people other than the ACCC might not be able to analyse this modelling. Can you tell us how many hundreds of pages are there?

Mr Samuel—I would have to defer to my—

Mr Dimasi—It is computer files that we are talking about. I am not sure what number of pages it is. I have no idea what the number of pages is.

Senator ABETZ—All I am doing is quoting your chairman's words, that there are hundreds of pages, so what I want to know is what does that mean in A4 sheets of paper?

Mr Dimasi—I expect that my chairman, who is not a computer modeller, I might add, was trying to convey—

Senator ABETZ—I thought he was everything.

Mr Dimasi—He was probably trying to convey the correct information that there are significant working files involved. I think that is the point.

Senator ABETZ—That is how we are supposed to interpret that claim?

Mr Dimasi—I am happy to stand corrected and to change the words to 'lots'.

Senator ABETZ—Would it be more in volume than, say, your December report? I am not talking about quality, or anything.

Mr Dimasi—We would have to print out those things to have a look and see. I have no idea.

Senator ABETZ—You cannot give us a rough idea—you have no idea?

Mr Dimasi—No idea.

Senator ABETZ—If you could take that on notice, thank you.

Answer:

The econometric output, program and input data files have never all been printed out. Based on the current number of output files, program files and data input files it is estimated that a full printout of these files would be over 400 A4 pages.