

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 225

Topic: Environmental Marketing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator XENOPHON asked:

1. Can the Commission indicate the number of complaints it has received on environmental marketing claims since the last Estimates? Has the Commission detected any increases in complaints relating to environmental marketing claims?

Answer:

In the period between 10 February 2010 (the date of the ACCC's Additional Estimates 2009–10 hearing) and 30 June 2010 the ACCC received 28 contacts in relation to environmental marketing claims. Of these 28 contacts, 18 were complaints and 10 were inquiries.

In the period between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 the ACCC received a total of 92 contacts relating to environmental marketing claims. Of these 92 contacts, 69 were complaints and 23 inquiries.

The total for this 12 month period is broken down into quarterly periods as follows:

- § 1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009: 44 contacts with 29 of these being complaints.
- § 1 October 2009 to 31 December 2009: 14 contacts with 12 of these being complaints.
- § 1 January 2010 to 30 March 2010: 24 contacts with 18 of these being complaints.
- § 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010: 10 contacts with all 10 of these being complaints.

These figures do not reveal any pattern of increasing complaints regarding environmental marketing claims that would constitute a breach of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*.