

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 49

Topic: Population Growth & Food Production #2

Hansard Page: E51-52 (02/06/2010)

Senator BOB BROWN asked:

Senator BOB BROWN—And I will get it back to you as an answer to your question. Is Treasury tracking the rapidly diminishing food reserves of planet Earth in view of the growing population?

Mr Murray—Not that I am aware of.

Senator BOB BROWN—Would you—?

Mr Murray—Well, the answer is no.

Senator BOB BROWN—Would you have a look at that and come back to me with how Treasury assesses those figures—from the UN.

Mr Murray—We can certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

Treasury has not assessed the UN reports: *State of World Population 2009*, *Facing a changing world: women, population and climate* and *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*.

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) is responsible for biodiversity policy matters.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is responsible for issues related to food security.