

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 285

Topic: Unanswered questions on notice

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Senator Cormann asked:

**Senator CAMERON:** Mr Banks, does the Productivity Commission have a problem with productivity in the commission? Do you have a management system problem? Is there a lack of flexibility or efficiency? Why can you not answer questions on notice?

**Mr Banks:** We can and we have.

**Senator CAMERON:** I have not seen any of the answers to the questions on notice that I put in February.

**Mr Scammell:** We provided to Treasury responses to all the questions, but not all of them have been tabled, Senator. Two remain.

**CHAIR:** Mr Scammell, we cannot hear you very well.

**Mr Scammell:** Senator, we prepared responses and have provided them to Treasury through the normal means. As I checked yesterday, all of them have been tabled with the committee, but two remain unanswered and they are two questions that you put on notice at the last hearings.

**Senator CAMERON:** I thought more than two questions. Maybe you joined them up. But you have not answered any questions. So there has been no response to any of my questions on notice.

**Mr Banks:** Senator, we have answered all of your questions. We have submitted our answers to all of your questions; perhaps I should put it that way.

**Senator CAMERON:** So they just have not come through from the Treasurer?

**Senator Wong:** I think it is the Assistant Treasurer, Senator.

**Senator CORMANN:** If you do not get any answers, I will not either.

**Senator Wong:** This proves the point that sometimes when you think it is a conspiracy, it really is not.

**Senator CAMERON:** Can you give me the answer to the questions now?

**Senator Wong:** Me?

**Senator CAMERON:** No, Minister. I am not asking you.

**Mr Banks:** Well, I will do my best, Senator, but it requires my memory. I might have to go back to—

**Senator CAMERON:** To be fair, they are complex issues going to different sources of information and education statistics, so I would not do that.

**Senator Wong:** Senator, if you allow me—I seem to have had to do this twice this estimates period, once for a government senator and once for an opposition senator—to follow up with the minister I am representing to find out whether an answer can be tabled as soon as possible, I will do so.

Answer:

Responses to these questions have been tabled.