

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
22-23 October 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Automotive Review

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 23 October 2008, E68)

QUESTION No.: SI-38

Senator ABETZ—...Can I move to the Bracks review? Given the time constraints, I will read some of these questions into the *Hansard*. If you do not have the answer immediately, that is fine; take them on notice. What was the total cost of the review and how many days in total did Mr Bracks work on the review? If it takes too long to look it up—

Senator Carr—No, it will not take too long to look it up. You asked a question. We will try to answer it.

Senator ABETZ—But we have time constraints because you had something more important than your duty to the Senate, which I am willing to accept. Therefore, I do not want time taken up with officials looking up things. I am not suggesting they are deliberately delaying it. Of course it takes time to find these things. I do not need an answer immediately, but if it is available then that is great.

Mr Payne—As at 9 October the total expenditure for the automotive review was \$677,373.

Senator ABETZ—Are you anticipating any further costs?

Mr Payne—There could be some further costs come in, basically receipt of invoices that could still be coming. There could be some small amounts in addition.

Senator ABETZ—You describe them as small amounts. We will ask next time and hopefully the accounts can be closed off. How many days did Mr Bracks work on the review? How much was Mr Bracks paid in total?

Mr Payne—I do not actually have the number of days.

Senator ABETZ—Take that on notice along with how much Mr Bracks was paid and how much each other reviewer was paid.

ANSWER

Mr Bracks has been paid \$15,101 for 24 sitting days of the Automotive Review. Invoices for additional sitting days are yet to be finalised. We currently calculate that he is due to be paid for a further 20 sitting days.

Payments totalling \$18,101.48 were made to the University of Melbourne for sitting fees and reimbursement of taxi fares for Dr Elizabeth Webster, a member of the expert panel assisting Mr Bracks.

Mr Peter Upton, a member of the expert panel assisting Mr Bracks, was paid \$19,481 for sitting fees, travel allowance and reimbursement of incurred travel costs.

Payments totalling \$10,781.79 were made to the Australian Trade Commission to reimburse travel expenses incurred on behalf of their employee Mr Tim Harcourt in his capacity as a member of the expert panel assisting Mr Bracks.

Mr Nixon Apple, a member of the expert panel assisting Mr Bracks, was paid \$14,653.50 for sitting fees and superannuation payments. In addition, a payment of \$756.58 (including GST) was made to the ACTU being reimbursement of incurred travel costs for Mr Apple to participate in a meeting of the Automotive Review panel held in Canberra.

We are not aware of any outstanding invoices for further payment to members of the expert panel which assisted Mr Bracks on the Automotive Review.