

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: 844

Topic: Costing of policies for the Independents and the Greens

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Senator Cormann asked:

Senator CORMANN: I did not even ask about the cost, yet. I asked how much time the department has spent since September 2010 in dealing with the consideration of policies for the Independents and the Greens.

Dr Parkinson: Can I take that on notice? It is a cross-departmental issue. We will try and identify how many times we have engaged with them. I know you are not asking for cost. We cannot work out how much time was involved in each interaction and how much cost was associated with it but we will attempt to get to the substance of the question.

Answer:

Treasury provides advice to Government on a range of issues. Some of these issues may have been raised by stakeholders, such as the Independents and the Greens. As the preparation of policy advice and analysis is business as usual for Treasury, it is not possible to estimate the time spent doing so.

Issues on which the Treasury has provided advice and/or analysis include those issues that have been requested by the Government, in some cases on behalf of a formal request from the Independents and the Greens or as part of a formal Government process. For example include:

- informing the deliberations of the Multi-Party Committee on Climate Change;
- Problem Gambling reforms;
- Revised taxation and grant arrangements for ethanol and other biofuels; and
- Commitments to the Member for Lyne and New England in the document Commitment to Regional Australia (including the Regional Development Australia Fund, MyRegion website, spatial accounting).