

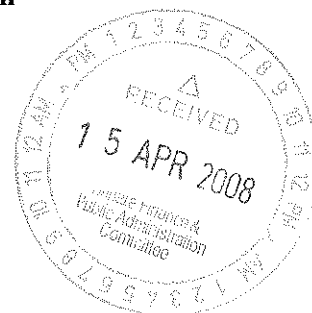
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008



Question: F19

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures - Drought package

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Senator Brandis asked:

Senator BRANDIS—...in relation to the second of these two measures, the drought package—which, of course, is a very important measure for people in rural Australia—what steps were taken by your minister to ensure that there had been consultation with the stakeholders when these decisions were considered by the cabinet subcommittee in which he participated? That is the question. I assume you are taking that on notice.

Senator Sherry—Yes, we will, because the secretary is not able to explain and outline the decisions taken by the four members of the strategic budget committee; in this case, particularly the Minister for Finance and Deregulation.

Answer:

The decisions taken by the Strategic Budget Committee of Cabinet were made following the provision of departmental advice, and had regard to the possible effects on stakeholders.