

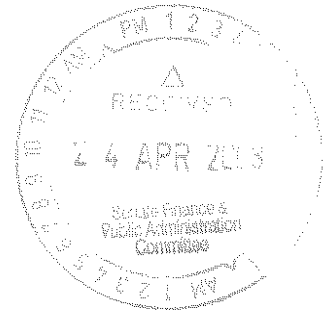
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008



Question: F20

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures – Rural Research and Development Corporations and Companies

Hansard Page: F&PA 57

Senator Brandis asked:

Senator BRANDIS—The second of these measures is a little different from those of them because, as we read from footnote 1:

The savings recognised that additional funding for Rural Research and Development Corporations and Companies will be available under the Government's proposed Climate Change and Productivity Research Program (\$15.0 million—

So in this particular case, unusually in this list, there is in fact a new program which will fund similar activities. Is that right?...

Dr Watt—I suspect—and I do not pretend to know the answer to this, but it can be checked and we can see whether we can get you an answer—that the \$15 million was already included in the budget estimates.

Answer:

It would not be appropriate for the Department of Finance and Deregulation to answer questions in relation to programs that are the responsibility of other portfolios. The Committee should direct this question to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.