

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

Question No. 130

Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

Fuel Watch Bills:

- a) When did the Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) receive the drafting instructions for the Fuel Watch Bills?
- b) When was drafting actually commenced?
- c) How many OPC officials actually worked on the Bills?
- d) How many communications were had between OPC and Treasury (specifying each) on the drafting of the Bills on the 28th and the 29th of May?
- e) Was a draft presented to treasury officials on the 28th of May? If so, at what time?
- f) Did any officers of the OPC work on the fuel watch bills after 8pm on the 28th of May? If so, how many?
- g) If so, to what time on the 28th or the 29th of May?
- h) At what times did officers of the OPC attend the Assistant Treasurer's office on the 29th of May? How many officers attended and at what time?
- i) Did an officer of the OPC actually make all the physical changes to the legislation that were made on the 29th of May, 2008?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) Instructions received: 6 May 2008
- b) Drafting commenced: 15 May 2008
- c) The Bills were principally drafted by 3 drafters, although minor assistance was given by another 2. Three of OPC's corporate services staff also assisted with the preparation of the Bills.
- d) Communications between OPC and Treasury on the dates referred to in the question were as follows:
 - (i) Met with Treasury: 28 May 2008, 10:30 to 13:30
 - (ii) Telephone conversation with Treasury: 28 May 2008, between 15:00 and 18:00 (approximately)
 - (iii) Email from Treasury: 28 May 2008, 16:46
 - (iv) Email to Treasury: 28 May 2008, 16:54
 - (v) Bills sent to Treasury: 28 May 2008, 18:00

(vi)	2 or 3 telephone conversations with Treasury:	28 May 2008, between 19:00 and 20:00 (approximately)
(vii)	Bill sent to Treasury:	28 May 2008, 20:03
(viii)	Email from Treasury:	28 May 2008, 20:29
(ix)	Telephone conversation with Treasury:	28 May 2008, between 20:30 and 21:00 (approximately)
(x)	Telephone conversation with Treasury:	28 May 2008, 22:30 (approx.)
(xi)	Email to Treasury:	28 May 2008, 22:32
(xii)	Met with Treasury:	29 May 2008, 09:35 to 13:15
(xiii)	Email to Treasury:	29 May 2008, 10:07
(xiv)	Email to Treasury:	29 May 2008, 10:35
(xv)	Email to Treasury:	29 May 2008, 10:52
(xvi)	Email to Treasury:	29 May 2008, 11:26

- e) Drafts were emailed to Treasury at 18:00, 20:03 and 22:32 on 28 May 2008.
- f) Yes, 3 drafters and 3 of OPC's corporate services staff worked past 8pm on 28th May 2008.
- g) The drafters and corporate services staff left between 21:36 and 22:40 on 28 May 2008.
- h) 3 drafters attended the Assistant Treasurer's office on 29 May 2008 between 09:35 to 13:15.
- i) Yes.