



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Main Committee

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2007-2008

Consideration in Detail

SPEECH

Thursday, 14 June 2007

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Thursday, 14 June 2007
Page 148
Questioner
Speaker Bowen, Chris, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Mr BOWEN (Prospect) (12.09 pm)—At the moment the ACCC does informal price monitoring. Let us be clear. The parliamentary secretary is taking the opportunity to use a terminological inexactitude which he very well knows is misleading the House. The ACCC does an internet search of petrol pricing. The ACCC puts petrol prices on its website. It does a good job at that. The Australian people do not need a website to tell them that petrol is expensive. What they need is the ACCC to have the power to get documents to examine petrol pricing and to have the power to formally subpoena people to provide evidence on petrol pricing under section 95ZE of the Trade Practices Act. The parliamentary secretary has confirmed that he has the personal authority to do it; can he confirm that he declines to write to the Chairman of the ACCC under section 95ZE of the Trade Practices Act?

Mr Pearce—I am sorry; what was the question?

Mr BOWEN—Will the parliamentary secretary confirm that he is declining to write to the Chairman of the ACCC and direct him to formally monitor petrol prices, as provided for under section 95ZE of the Trade Practices Act? And, no, it does not happen at the moment; at the moment there is no formal petrol price monitoring.