

Section 22

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 August 2011 6:48 PM  
**To:** ABARES  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Access to Treasury GTEM

Hi ,

Very sorry for being hard to reach. I am acting ED this week and my time is not my own! I think it would be useful to have a discussion around this issue to find a way forward that works for both organisations. My understanding of the agreement between Treasury and ABARE is that the IP of the GTEM model rests with ABARES on behalf of the Commonwealth, so it would not be possible for Treasury to provide that information to a third party without ABARES support. There is also the issue of the underlying data which is licensed by both ABARES and Treasury separately. There was some correspondence between Treasury and ABARE on this issue in response to a senate request back in 2009. I will track it down from this end.

From memory, the version of GTEM used in the previous treasury modelling was taken back to ABARE at the end of the project. So it would only be any changes that were made to the model between the ALPF report and the SGLP report by Treasury that would not currently be available to ABARES. I will get someone to check on the details of what if any elements this might relate to.

Are you free just before lunch – around 11am tomorrow to talk through some of these issue?

Regards,

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**From:** ABARES @abares.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 August 2011 5:31 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Access to Treasury GTEM  
**Importance:** High

Dear

I have tried unsuccessfully to reach you by phone a few times, so thought I should try an email this time.

I have seen your email correspondence with , and I thank you for that.

However, your answer reported on page 30 (see below) that 'He would be able to pay for the models used by Treasury and, yes, he would be able to receive those models' may be open to an interpretation that is a bit different to what you possibly intended.

Although what you said is strictly correct, we have been approached by someone asking if they can purchase 'a copy of the GTEM model that was used in the latest Treasury analysis of the impact of introducing a carbon price in Australia'.

Whilst we have early GTEM model documentation available on our website, we do not have the version used in your analysis. As you will recall, ABARE provided the GTEM model to the Treasury some years ago, and I understand that it has been further developed within your Department.

I have advised the enquirer verbally that ABARES does not have a copy of the version of the model used in your analysis. They have since followed up with an email seeking confirmation that we cannot sell them a copy of the model used.

Short of the Treasury providing ABARES with a copy of your latest version of GTEM (something that we would love to have of course!) to pass on to the enquirer, I think the best approach is to refer them to you. Are you OK with that?

Regards

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**From page 30 of the transcript**

**Ms Quinn:** I am trying to answer your question. In providing information to the public domain, we have provided a comprehensive amount of information. Treasury does not own these models, so it is not possible for us to hand over someone else's model. These models are publicly available. They are purchased and available from organisations within Australia. There is nothing preventing people picking up these models and doing modelling if they have a desire to do so.

**Senator BOSWELL:** So, if Professor Ergas were to go with a cheque in his hand and say, 'I want the modelling and I am prepared to pay for it,' it would be available to him? Is that what you are saying?

**Ms Quinn:** He would be able to pay for the models used by Treasury and, yes, he would be able to receive those models.

**Senator BOSWELL:** Comprehensive models?

**Ms Quinn:** Yes, he would be able to obtain them from the providers of those models.

(page 32)

**Senator BOSWELL:** You told the committee that if Professor Ergas was to rock up with a cheque in his hand, you will make available anything that he needs.

**Ms Quinn:** Not Treasury because Treasury does not own these models.

**Senator BOSWELL:** You would make anything available that Treasury owns.

**Ms Quinn:** No. As I said, we used a large number of models in this analysis, including those owned by two private sector electricity generation expert modellers, the CSIRO, ABARES, the Centre of Policy Studies and other elements. Those are available publicly.

**CHAIR:** Was the MMRF model, which is what most of the discussion is about, developed specifically for the purpose of Treasury being able to conduct that original CPRS modelling?

**Ms Quinn:** The MMRF model is a product of the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash University and has been in existence for a large number of years prior to Treasury—

**CHAIR:** Did you purchase the licence for the Commonwealth?

**Ms Quinn:** Yes.

**Senator BOSWELL:** I am still trying to get to the bottom of this. I have a claim that Professor Ergas cannot get the modelling and you say that he can get the modelling.

**Ms Quinn:** He can certainly approach the people who own the models and he can purchase a license to use those models.

**Senator BOSWELL:** This is my understanding of what happens: you go out and buy all these models, and you own them, and then out of those models—

**Ms Quinn:** We do not own them; we purchase a licence to use them.

**Senator BOSWELL:** Okay, you purchase a licence. From those models, you pull together your own model—is that correct?