

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

18 October 2012

Question: SBT 1719-1720

Topic: Shredders (ATO)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1719. Did the department/agencies purchase any shredders in 2011-12? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.
1720. Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders since Budget Estimates 2011-12 (May 2012)? ? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer:

1719. In 2011-12, the ATO purchased five shredders. Details of the purchases made were:

- five shredders at a unit price of \$8,735 (excluding GST) for shredding both paper and media devices (*Security Construction and Equipment Committee* (SCEC) endorsed)

All shredders were purchased either as part of an ongoing asset replacement program to replace old or faulty units, or to replace non-SCEC endorsed equipment. Only shredders endorsed by SCEC are suitable for the destruction of sensitive material classified PROTECTED or higher in accordance with the *Protective Security Policy Framework, Australian Government Information security management guidelines: Protectively marking and handling sensitive and security classified information*.

The ATO considered these combination shredders a good investment as they offered the increased capability of being able to handle both paper and media shredding. They were purchased to service the needs of entire offices, not all of which had a cost-effective means to dispose of classified media in a secure manner.

All replaced assets were disposed of in accordance with appropriate asset management policy and practices.

1720. In 2012-13 to 31 October 2012, the ATO purchased nine shredders. These shredders were purchased in two groups for the following amounts:

- one shredder at a unit price of \$3,450 (excluding GST) – large volume paper shredder (SCEC endorsed)
- eight shredders at a unit price of \$2,990 (excluding GST) – standard volume paper shredder (also SCEC endorsed).

All shredders were purchased either as part of an ongoing asset replacement program to replace old or faulty units, or to replace non-SCEC endorsed equipment.