

Oil and gas

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Agency: Australian Taxation Office
Topic: Comparison Work

Question:

Ms Saint: As you've noted quite correctly, we're not a policy agency. Yes, we do have insight into the operation of the system, and we do work closely with Treasury to offer those insights where required. But, in terms of our administration function, we're really focused on operating within the framework that the laws have provided for us.

Senator PATRICK: So the tax office hasn't received a request from Treasury in the last, say, two or three years to ask you to do some comparison work?

Ms Saint: Not that I'm aware of.

Senator PATRICK: Could you take that on notice just to check?

Ms Saint: Absolutely; I'm happy to.

Answer:

Through its Policy, Analysis and Legislation area, the ATO routinely engages with Treasury on various tax policy matters, focussing on providing an administrator's experience of the system. This has not extended to comparing the Australian taxation regime for oil and gas against other tax jurisdictions.

The ATO's and Treasury's working arrangements encourage collaboration, early engagement and the earliest possible identification and communication of issues.

The [2017 Callaghan review of Petroleum Resources Rent Tax](#) commissioned by the Treasurer included a comparison with other countries' regimes.