

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 1789-1790

Topic: Deregulation (PC)

Written: 7 March 2014

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1789. What consultative mechanisms did you previously have in your portfolio that gave feedback on red tape? Did any of these forums make a focussed effort or an overt role to get feedback on red or green tape?

1790. In the past year what was the extent of union involvement in consultative mechanisms within your portfolio and how has the level of union input changed over the past decade?

Answer:

1789. Much of the work undertaken by the Production Commission over many years, through its public inquiries and studies, has been focused on reducing regulatory burdens. This body of work is available on the Commission's website, including details of the consultations undertaken.

1790. The Productivity Commission has a staff consultative committee, which includes CPSU representation. As at 7 March 2014, the committee had met on four occasions during the previous year. In addition, the Commission has consulted staff and the CPSU regarding an organisational restructure, in accordance with clauses in the enterprise agreement and legislation relating to major change.

Over the past decade, as a small organisation, consultation has largely been directly with staff or staff nominated representatives. Union consultation has varied according to changes in government policy or legislative requirements.