

**Additional Estimates 2015 - Questions on Notice - Treasury Portfolio**

QON Number	No. of questions contained	Senator	Broad Topic	Full Question Text	Agency/Group	Spoken/ Written	Date Of Hearing/ submission by Senator	Hansard Page
AET 1-2	2	Williams, John	Foreign owned agricultural land	1. In the last 12 months, has FIRB rejected any applications by foreign investors, including public and private, to purchase agricultural land? 2. With statistics showing that about 12 per cent of Australian agricultural land is foreign owned, at what level of ownership would FIRB become seriously enough concerned to invoke the national interest test?	Foreign Investment and Trade Policy Division	Written	3.3.2015	
AET 3	1	Williams, John	Fuel prices	3. Please provide an update on the ACCC investigation into the abnormally high fuel prices in Armidale NSW. This was referred to you on the 23rd of October last year.	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Written	2.3.2015	
AET 4-6	3	Williams, John	Honey	4. Are you looking at taking any action against the importers or suppliers of Garden Honey and Forrest Honey? 5. When you order honey to be taken off supermarket shelves, do you actually send inspectors around to ensure that direction is complied with? 6. If not, what is the fine that is imposed for non-compliance and has this been enforced?	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Written	2.3.2015	
AET 7	1	Williams, John	Australis Barramundi	7. At the recent Senate inquiry into seafood labelling, it was stated that a product called Australis Barramundi is available in Australia but is actually imported from Vietnam. Therefore they are riding on the back of Australia's good name in seafood. Most people would think the name Australis means the product is Australian. Has the ACCC received a complaint about this labelling and if so where is the investigation up to?	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Written	2.3.2015	
AET 8	1	Williams, John	Uber	8. Is there any ongoing investigation into the Uber car sharing matter that the taxi industry is concerned about?	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Written	2.3.2015	
AET 9	1	Ketter, Chris	Provision of IGR to Treasurer's Office	Senator KETTER: Would you be able to tell us when the first draft of the IGR was provided to the Treasurer's office? Mr Fraser: No. I do not know, I am afraid. Senator Cormann: We can take that on notice. Senator KETTER: Take that on notice. Senator WONG: Is there an officer at the table or behind you who knows the answer? Mr Lonsdale: As we have said, Mr Ray is the key person that drives and is accountable for the report. Senator Cormann: He might be able to assist you on that. Mr Lonsdale: He will know the answers to these questions; they are quite detailed. Senator KETTER: Okay.	Social Policy Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	pg 8-9
AET 10	1	Wong, Penny	Consumer Sentiment Index	Senator WONG: In requesting the secretary, say, to answer questions, the minister continues to give speeches from the table. I asked a simple question about consumer confidence and we are getting another speech. Mr Fraser or Ms Wilkinson: who in Treasury tracks or looks at the consumer sentiment index? Who can I ask questions of? Ms Wilkinson: Yes, we are responsible for that. Senator WONG: Yes, I thought so. Can you confirm that we did see a drop in consumer confidence around the budget and subsequently? Ms Wilkinson: I can confirm in general terms but I do not have the details. I could take any detailed questions about that on notice. Senator Cormann: However, I can assist you, Chair. Senator WONG: Oh, Chair! Senator Cormann: I can give you a quote from Mr Christopher Kent, assistant governor of the Reserve Bank, who said to the House economics committee hearing on 13 February 2015, AND I am quoting him here: 'The measures of things like consumer confidence and business confidence are around average. There has been an improvement particularly on the business front compared to where they had been— Senator WONG: At budget. Senator Cormann: in middle to late 2013—middle to late 2013', which is of course the period of the previous government. 'That is on the business side. Consumer confidence moves around a bit and it is around average now.' I understand the political point that you are trying to make, but let me just say again: we are heading in the right direction. We are pursuing the difficult or necessary decisions in order to put Australia on a stronger foundation for the future. We are making progress. This is not the time to start moving backwards. This is the time to keep moving forwards. CHAIR: Thanks, Minister. Senator Wong. Senator WONG: Thank you. So do you not have the information in front of you, Ms Wilkinson? Ms Wilkinson: I do not have the consumer sentiment index itself, no—not the numbers.	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	25

AET 11	1	Wong, Penny	Labour Market	<p>Senator Cormann: You have got your answer, Senator Wong.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I did have some questions about youth unemployment. Are they best done in this area?</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson: Perhaps if you ask the questions and we can see whether we can help you.</p> <p>Senator WONG: In the statement of monetary policy the RBA made some somewhat worrying conclusions about youth unemployment, referencing its sensitivity to the business cycle, referencing the increase in youth unemployment. Can you perhaps give us some observations about the performance of the youth labour market and the factors which are contributing to the scale of youth unemployment?</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson: I think I will have to take that question on notice. The youth unemployment rate was 14.2 per cent in January.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Correct, a one and a bit per cent increase.</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson: I do not have the previous number. The previous peak in November 2014 was 14.6 per cent, so it is about that level. I will have to take questions on notice in terms of a drop.</p> <p>Senator WONG: The duration of unemployment for 20 to 24-year-olds obviously, statistically, would be increasing too. No?</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson: I do not have that information.</p>	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	31
AET 12	1	Ketter, Chris	Review of the ABS	<p>Senator KETTER: I have some follow-up questions in respect to the ABS. Treasury identified a review of the ABS which commenced on 9 October 2014. That was provided to government on 21 November. Could you confirm that that review has been provided to the Treasurer?</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson: Yes, I can confirm that that review has been provided to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: What were the key findings of that review?</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson: That review is currently sitting with the Treasurer. I think it is a matter for the Treasurer.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Are you able to tell us about any systemic issues that were found that might be affecting the operation of the ABS?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I might have to take the question on notice. I am not personally aware of the review, if the review has been put to the Treasurer. If you want to put some questions in relation to these matters on notice, I undertake to consult with the Treasurer to see how best we can assist you. The officer at the table has referred these matters to the Treasurer. I am not in a position personally to provide any informed answers because I am just not across that particular review.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: It is a bit unusual for such a review to have been conducted and for the findings to be provided to the Treasurer. Can you tell us when the findings were provided?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Because it was done by the previous secretary we might just have to take that on notice and see. I am not trying to be difficult. Literally there is nobody at the table, as I understand it, who was directly involved in it. If there are—</p> <p>Senator KETTER: What about in the gallery behind, is there anybody who can assist us in that?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Apparently it was provided to the government towards the end of October last year. I am happy to tell you that you. Again, this is outside my personal sphere of responsibility. Any specific questions in relation to the matters contained in it I would have to take up with the Treasurer.</p>	Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	31-32
AET 13	1	Wong, Penny	Consumer Confidence and Employment Growth	<p>Senator WONG: Could I put a question on notice, unless the answer is readily available? It goes back to the relationship between consumer confidence and future employment levels. Does Treasury have an indication of what statistical correlation there is between consumer confidence and employment growth? It may be something you wish to take on notice.</p> <p>Ms Wilkinson: I think we should take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Thank you. I appreciate that.</p>	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	36
AET 14	1	Heffernan, Bill	Banks Assessment of Global Revenue Leakage	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Can I ask one question on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: This is the last question before we break; one question on notice.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Would you guys kindly provide to this committee on notice a brief on the World Bank's assessment of global revenue leakage, which includes their figures of \$3 trillion, and, if you can, the graph of the increase in the derivative swap market in that process and transfer pricing.</p> <p>Mr Fraser: We can certainly provide a commentary on it.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: No, a brief.</p> <p>Mr Fraser: Hang on. I was trying to say earlier that it is an issue which is alive and well. I have met with the commissioner. The commissioner is looking into the whole issue to make sure that we have got our facts right before we start to advise—if there is a need for advice—on policy.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: If there is a need?</p> <p>Mr Fraser: Senator, you need to know the extent of the problem before you start putting policy together. That is a pretty basic principle.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: You might know that for three years I have been doing the research. I just want to know what you have done. So you will take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take it on notice, yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: The minister will take it on notice. We will suspend. I will just let you know that we are done with macroeconomics and we will return with Fiscal Group. Thank you, Secretary, for staying on for that extra half an hour. We much appreciate it.</p>	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	36-37

AET 15	1	Milne, Christine	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	<p>Senator MILNE: I want first of all to go to Clean Energy Finance Corporation—in particular, your objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Previously you said you could achieve half of the government's current 5 per cent reduction target. That was some time ago. You obviously have had a lot more projects up and running and more in the pipeline. Could you give me an understanding now of what you could lay claim to in terms of the projects that are already financed and up and what the pipeline might achieve, if it were to come to fruition?</p> <p>Mr Yates: We are continuing with our activities, as you are aware, and we are building a pipeline. The level of emissions in relation to the projects that we actually finance, obviously, is quite dependent upon the projects that we are likely to finance. At the moment we are seeing a change within that as large renewable energy projects have been slowed down with the RET. It is quite difficult for to us forecast with any precise terms the exact amount that we would be able to contribute to the overall government's objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but I would be very happy to try to forecast that for you in more detail as a question on notice, Senator, when we look in more detail in relation to the outlook, and particularly if we know the outcome from the RET review.</p>	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Spoken	25.2.2015	37
AET 16	1	Madigan, John	Portland Wind Energy Project	<p>Senator MADIGAN: Mr Yates, what procedures and processes led to the CEFC's decision to provide \$70 million in debt financing to Pacific Hydro for its Portland wind energy project, enabling Pacific Hydro to construct stage 4 of the project and develop a retail business for renewable energy? Would you be able to enlighten us on who approached the CEFC and requested the financial assistance on behalf of Pacific Hydro, whom it was pitched by and who were involved? I am happy for you to take the question on notice, if necessary.</p> <p>Mr Yates: For the purposes of time, I am happy to take the question on notice. If you also would like me to answer it, I can, but it is a bit long-winded, if you like, for wont of a better word. The only thing that I can say is that we actually have direct relationships with all of the energy producers; so we actually know them directly. There is no party in the middle, should you say, between us and Pac Hydro; we deal directly with the company in relation to any of their financing needs.</p> <p>Senator MADIGAN: If you can take that on notice, I would appreciate it.</p>	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Spoken	25.2.2015	42
AET 17	1	Canavan, Matthew	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	<p>Senator CANAVAN: Can I just question you about your expecting to be profitable and about the level of risk that you are taking on when making loans or concessional agreements? This question would actually be more for Mr Ray—sorry to interrupt you there, Mr Ray—because I note that, when the bill went through originally and the guidelines under which you operate now were being considered by the parliament, the explanatory memorandum outlined—and I presume these figures were from Treasury—that this bill would have a net negative impact on the fiscal balance of more than \$1 billion over the forward estimates and more than \$300 million on an underlying cash basis. The EM goes on to say:</p> <p>The fiscal and underlying cash balance impacts include a prudent recognition that some investments will not be recovered, and interest revenue.</p> <p>In the context of what Mr Yates has just said though: did Treasury expect this organisation to be profitable in that sense or to make returns lower than a commercial bank would expect?</p> <p>Mr Ray: You are testing my memory. Those costings were agreed with the Department of Finance back in 2012—</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Yes, that is right.</p> <p>Mr Ray: and subsequently have been revised. The exact nature of that revision I would need to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: So you would expect them to not make losses then?</p> <p>Mr Ray: Included in the costing was exactly as you have just described: an allowance for some level of bad loans. So, in the fiscal balance, it is a question of concessionality and that concessionality then gets unwound; it does not affect the cash balance but it does affect the fiscal balance. Those two things were in the original costings. Subsequently, the Department of Finance has reviewed those estimates with us and I think an estimates variation was taken. I would need to take on notice exactly when.</p>	Industries and Infrastructure Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	46-47

AET 18	1	Dastyari, Sam	Asset Recycling Advice	<p>Senator DASTYARI: This question was not hypothetical. The exact question I asked was whether or not Treasury was aware of statements to the effect from the Treasurer—obviously they are because they are an incredibly good agency. The second question was whether or not there had been legal advice sought from the Attorney-General's Department or the Australian Government Solicitor on the legality of direct payments to states following Williams (No. 1) and Williams (No. 2).</p> <p>Mr Ray: We have advice post Williams on the—</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Do you have advice specifically on the issue of asset recycling or only broadly on the post Williams case?</p> <p>Mr Ray: We have advice specifically on asset recycling post Williams.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: When did you receive that advice?</p> <p>Mr Ray: We would need to take that on notice. I do not have that date.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Just to be clear and put this into context, post the Williams cases there was an exercise right across the government looking at all of the expenditure of government to make sure it is consistent with the constitutional requirements as interpreted following the High Court decision in the Williams cases. We did not specifically look at this in isolation.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: No, but they are saying they specifically asked about this.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Sure, but across the government this was part of a broader exercise by this government.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Again, I am accessing information that you do not have, so I am just going to tell you what the Australian Attorney-General's Department said yesterday. The Attorney-General's Department said yesterday effectively that what had changed post Williams was that the court had said that you need some legislative support in addition to an appropriation act for some sorts of spending. They were of the view—and they said they confirmed this—that they were not the source of your advice and that probably your advice had come from the Australian Government Solicitor. Is the advice from the Australian Government Solicitor or from the Attorney-General's Department?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Firstly, there would be nothing unusual about sourcing advice from the Australian Government Solicitor.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: No, none of this is—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: They are the lawyers for the government.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: I do not know why you think I am after some kind of 'gotcha' moment. I am not. I am trying to work out what has happened.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: It is an unusual question because—</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: I am an unusual guy.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Is the government seeking advice from the government's lawyers?</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: On a specific matter.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: It was AGS. I can confirm that.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Okay.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: So, the government sought advice from the government's lawyers.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Were you the person who commissioned the advice, Ms Reinhardt?</p> <p>Ms Reinhardt: No, I did not actually commission the advice, but I can confirm that we sought advice. Obviously, post Williams there is a lot of work going into ensuring that all of the governments' payments to the states are consistent with that.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will just stress again that this is an exercise that was done right across all of the government expenditure.</p>	Industries and Infrastructure Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	51-52
AET 19	1	Leyonhjelm, David	Aviation and Shipping Sabotage	<p>Senator LEYONHJELM: I have a question on cabotage. At the last estimates in November I raised the issue of aviation or shipping cabotage restrictions and options to reduce them. I was told by Mr Legg that the Treasury is 'aware that work has been done elsewhere in the Public Service on those issues and we have contributed a briefing'. I asked the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development yesterday about this and he advised that they were not aware of any work done other than a submission to the competition review, the Harper review. Are you able to provide to the committee your contribution to this issue of aviation and shipping cabotage?</p> <p>Mr Ray: To the extent that we may have done work on that question, it would be advice to the government. I am happy to take it on notice to see if we have provided advice and whether the Treasurer is happy to provide it.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: I am relying on Mr Legg's comment to that effect, but I understand that you did not make that statement.</p> <p>Mr Ray: I did not. It would be advice to government, were we to have done anything.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: If you can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Ray: Yes, I am happy to.</p>	Industries and Infrastructure Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	54-55
AET 20	1	Leyonhjelm, David	Tariffs	<p>Senator LEYONHJELM: My final question in this series is relating to tariffs. Have you done any work in the last 18 months considering the optimal rate of tariffs and, if you have, can you outline and make available that work?</p> <p>Mr Ray: We would need to check across the department on that question. We will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: This will probably be another one on notice.</p> <p>Mr Ray: I think I know the answer is, no, but we will check.</p> <p>CHAIR: Last question.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: Are you aware of any work or have you done any work on the administration and compliance costs of our remaining tariffs and, if so, can you outline and release it?</p> <p>Mr Ray: I think the answer would be, no, but we will check. I want to check with our Revenue Group.</p>	Industries and Infrastructure Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	55

AET 21	1	Milne, Christine	Mineral Resource Rent Tax	<p>Senator MILNE: Finally, have you done any modelling, estimation or assessment on the jobs that have been created as a result of the abolition of the carbon price and the Mineral Resource Rent Tax?</p> <p>Mr Ray: Not that I am aware of, but we take into account the abolition of the Mineral Resource Rent Tax and the abolition of the carbon price in our forecasts.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: And?</p> <p>Mr Ray: They are taken into account. I will take it on notice, because it is a question for another group, as to whether they have actually had a look at a particular thing like that.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Because with unemployment up you would have to think there is no net job increase.</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: I think we might take that as a comment rather than a question.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: I will pursue it with the Revenue Group.</p> <p>CHAIR: That is tomorrow morning.</p>	Corporate and International Tax Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	56
AET 22	1	Ketter, Chris	Google Tax	<p>Senator KETTER: I am going to another matter. Late last year the UK government announced what they called a Google tax, and the Treasurer has indicated an intention to adopt a similar approach in terms of taxing profits assessed as being earned in Australia. What is your view of the government's proposal?</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: This is a policy question. This officer is not going to comment on policy. If you are asking me, as the minister at the table, I will take your question on notice, but this officer is not going to be commenting on policy.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: If I move away from the policy issue, how workable would you believe it is for the Australian government to unilaterally assess the Australian component of a company's—</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: That is a good try, but it is the same question asked a different way. Chair, I think this is a policy issue.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: We will either take it on notice, I suspect, or—</p>	Small Business Tax Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	60
AET 23	1	Wong, Penny	IGR - Net Overseas Migration (NOM)	<p>Senator WONG: In relation to the consultation with the Treasurer on the NOM, has the NOM been the subject of consultation for the purposes of the IGR—this is beyond the forwards—with the Treasurer or his office?</p> <p>Mr Ray: It has been the subject of consultations with the Treasurer.</p> <p>Senator WONG: In the context of that consultation, do you generate a range of options for consideration?</p> <p>Mr Ray: In context of that consultation, we provide advice to the Treasurer on what we think an appropriate base case assumption might be. If you recall, in previous IGRs what has happened is that the government on each occasion has published a base case and then, certainly in the 2010 IGR, there was sensitivity analysis around that.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Has a final decision been made on the appropriate base case assumption?</p> <p>Mr Ray: The government has not yet settled the final document.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Sorry?</p> <p>Mr Ray: The government has not yet settled the final document. Until then it is not final.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You do not settle the document in one go, do you?</p> <p>Mr Ray: No, but—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Presumably this—</p> <p>Mr Ray: But—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Mr Ray, can I finish the question and then maybe we will see if we need to have an argument?</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: You are straying very close into advice to and from government with this question.</p> <p>Senator WONG: He has not actually heard the question. What I am asking is whether or not the base case assumption has been finalised. Presumably that is one of the key parameters or assumptions—I am sorry, I am not sure which of the terms is correct—that you need to generate a great deal of other aspects of the report.</p> <p>Mr Ray: Yes, it is a key parameter to the report. But until a government document is published it is not final.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Sure.</p> <p>Mr Ray: So it is with that caveat. The Treasurer has said publically that it is going to be released in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Who makes the final decision on that key parameter?</p> <p>Mr Ray: The government.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So, the Treasurer?</p> <p>Mr Ray: It is up to the government how they decide.</p> <p>Senator WONG: In terms of your advice, and I am not asking what your advice was, but I am asking about the range from—</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: Come on.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I am not going to ask quantitatively. I am trying to get some sense of whether the—</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: You have sat on this side before.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can he at least wait until I have finished the question? Can I just please ask the question and then he can decide if he is going to object to it.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Wong.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Thank you. In assessing the appropriate base case assumptions, I assume there is a range as opposed to a point that is</p>	Social Policy Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	63-65

AET 24	1	Canavan, Matthew	Historical Trend of Net Overseas Migration (NOM)	<p>Senator CANAVAN: In calculating these forecasts, and they are presumably 40-year forecasts?</p> <p>Mr Ray: I would call them projections.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Sorry, projections. You are absolutely correct, Mr Ray. Presumably you would look back almost a similar period. What has been the historical trend of NOM going back to post the Second World War? Given that you have been doing these projections, perhaps you would have—</p> <p>Mr Ray: Post Second World War, NOM went up, then came down through the 60s. In the 70s it came back up again into the mid-80s. It came back down in the early 90s, not surprisingly given what was going on in the economy. It then came back up again.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: This goes back a long way, but my understanding is that since the Second World War it has run at about 90,000 a year on average in that period. Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Ray: I can take that on notice.</p>	Social Policy Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	68
AET 25	1	Ketter, Chris	IGR Community Engagement Program	<p>Senator KETTER: Mr Ray, is Treasury doing any work on a community engagement program around the IGR?</p> <p>Mr Ray: We are working with the government on a possible community engagement program.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: What does it entail?</p> <p>Mr Ray: That has not been settled yet.</p> <p>Senator WONG: How long have you been working on it? When did you commence?</p> <p>Mr Ray: Since last year. The exact date I would need to take on notice.</p>	Budget Policy Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	70
AET 26	1	Ketter, Chris	IGR report advertising campaign	<p>Senator KETTER: Has there been any advertising campaign run for any previous IGR report?</p> <p>Mr Ray: Not that I can recall, but I would need to check so I will have to take that on notice.</p>	Ministerial and Communications Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	72
AET 27	1	Ketter, Chris	Asset Recycling Fund	<p>Senator KETTER: I would like to draw your attention to some comments made recently by the Assistant Infrastructure Minister, Mr Briggs. He said that Queensland will not be receiving any extra money to help resolve infrastructure backing after cancelling the previous government's privatisation projects. Also in that news report he said that the government is spending more on Queensland than other states already. Do you agree with that?</p> <p>Mr Ray: That is a little bit difficult for me to comment on other than to say that it is a sort of night follows day that if a state government does not privatise an asset it will not receive access to the Asset Recycling Fund pool of money. It is a tautology. So, if that is what the minister was referring to, I think we could all agree with it. The question about how much is being spent on infrastructure in Queensland, what the Commonwealth is spending on Queensland versus other states, is really a question for our Infrastructure Department colleagues but we can take it on notice and check. That is a fact.</p> <p>CHAIR: You have said that you will take it on notice.</p>	Industries and Infrastructure Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	73
AET 28	1	Ketter, Chris	Tax White Paper contracts	<p>Senator KETTER: There are two other contracts that I am aware of, and I am not sure if they are related to this particular exercise. There is a supplier named Taylor Nelson Sofres and it is for market research, \$79,200. Is that also related to this?</p> <p>Mr Hickey: That is not related to the IGR, no.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Also, there is a contract with ZOO Advertising for \$101,000; are you aware if that is related to this exercise?</p> <p>Mr Hickey: Not to the IGR, no.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: What are they related to, do you know?</p> <p>Mr Hickey: My understanding of those contracts is that they are in relation to work we are doing on the tax white paper, the discussion paper, and some work that is underway on that.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Are questions about the tax white paper with the Revenue Group?</p> <p>Mr Ray: Yes, tomorrow morning.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: So, we are at the focus group stage, as I understand it. I understand these are very preliminary stages, but how far advanced is the scoping for this exercise?</p> <p>Mr Hickey: We have conducted a number of research groups; I am not sure of the exact number. I can take that on notice. I think it was around 30 groups that we have done. That has been through a couple of different stages of the research and has obviously been conducted across a number of groups in various locations, various demographics, different demographics to get a good understanding of those processes. We have had the initial results from the research for that. That has been a process that we are going through, which is a process that we are still continuing through at the moment.</p>	Tax White Paper Task Force	Spoken	25.2.2015	75

AET 29	1	Dastyari, Sam	IGR report	<p>Mr Hickey: Yes, I will do my best. In terms of the approval process for a tender like this, it is part of the normal process that we would be engaged. We sought to set up an evaluation panel prior to issuing the tender. Then we obviously set out the tender, selected the groups that we are tendering for and issued the tender along with an evaluation criteria before tender results came back. The people on that tender evaluation group are people generally within my area. Occasionally we will get people from outside. I think in the instance of the IGR one we also had a representative from the Department of Finance to assist us, just to make sure that we were going through the right steps and processes. Those processes and the evaluation report are then put before myself to sign off on before entering into contract negotiations with the successful tenderer.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: I have got two questions. Firstly, has an evaluation panel been created for tenders related to the tax white paper?</p> <p>Mr Ray: Mr Hickey was answering the question in relation to the intergenerational report research.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: With relation to the tax white paper, was the same process followed?</p> <p>Mr Hickey: The exact same process. I was not involved in signing off on the evaluation report itself, though. I would need to take on notice the details of who knows.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Who was?</p> <p>Mr Hickey: I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Mr Ray, do you know if Mr Heferen was the one that signed off on it? I can just ask him tomorrow.</p> <p>Mr Ray: I think you can ask Mr Heferen tomorrow.</p>	Ministerial and Communications Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	78-79
AET 30-31	2	Williams, John	Stuart Ariff	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: I want to take you to Stuart Ariff. There were four years of complaints. You finally acted after media put it out there. He was jailed for six years. I believe he has just been freed on parole; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Price: I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Are you not aware of that?</p> <p>Mr Price: I am not sure, off the top of my head, when his parole date was.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Did ASIC make any representations to the state parole authority in advance of the expected 25 March release? I am sorry, he is expected to be released on 25 March. Have you presented any correspondence to the state parole authority in opposing parole?</p> <p>Mr Price: Again, I would like to take that on notice. I think the answer is no, but I would like to take that on notice to be sure.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Is the Ariff case closed or would you pursue more dealings if more evidence came forward?</p> <p>Mr Price: No case is ever closed. If there are allegations of further wrongdoing and there is evidence to support those allegations we always invite people to come forward with them.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: I think that parole is due. I am sorry for not reading that properly. It is an expected 25 March release. I think you should have a close look at that.</p> <p>Mr Price: Noted. Thank you.</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	85-86
AET 32	1	Dastyari, Sam	NAB Financial Planners - breach reports	<p>Senator DASTYARI: How many breach reports were filled in in respect to them?</p> <p>Mr Kell: That is one of the things that we are checking because—</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: You do not know?</p> <p>Mr Kell: We do not know. We do not have all the names as yet. One of the first pieces of information that we are seeking is a list of all the names.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: You do not have that. NAB has not given you the 37 names yet?</p> <p>Mr Kell: That is what they are doing right at the moment because we are requesting that information.</p> <p>Mr Medcraft: We have done that under notice and they will respond under notice.</p> <p>Ms Macaulay: That is right.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Let us unpackage this. You said to me earlier you were aware of some of the issues that were in the media reports prior to Saturday and some of them you became aware of after Saturday. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Kell: Yes.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: What were you aware of before Saturday and what did you become aware of after Saturday?</p> <p>Mr Kell: Some of the matters are, as I mentioned earlier in response to one of Senator Williams' questions, the subject of current investigations so I am not in a position to—</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: You cannot even tell us—</p> <p>Mr Kell: I am not in a position to run through exactly where our investigations might be up to, but in relation to these 37 advisers, that is the first piece of information we sought. Basically, who are they? What is the conduct involved? We will then check whether there are breach reports provided and assess the nature of the conduct.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: So, at this point in time you do not know what the 37 names are?</p> <p>Mr Kell: They have already started to provide some of them. We are talking about a couple of days here.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: When will you, when you get it under compulsion?</p> <p>Ms Macaulay: By the end of this week.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: So, by the end of this week you will know the 37 names and you will be able to answer how many breach reports have been filled. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Kell: Around that time, yes. That is roughly the right time frame.</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	89-90

AET 33	1	Dastyari, Sam	Termination of NAB Financial Planners	<p>Senator DASTYARI: I think you will find that you may not be right on that. I would like to check. It was 37 planners. Why are you saying five years because our information states 37 planners within two years?</p> <p>Mr Kell: We will check.</p> <p>Ms Macaulay: I thought it was five years but it may, in fact, have been two years.</p> <p>Mr Tanzer: Are you referring to the document that was just tabled?</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Tanzer: Do you want us to read the document?</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: No. I am saying the 37. The media reports on the weekend were they were dismissed over two years. Is</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	90
AET 34	1	Dastyari, Sam	Number of banned financial planners	<p>Senator DASTYARI: That is something that we can look at through our other inquiries. Do you have any information available regarding how many planners have been banned in the past year?</p> <p>Ms Macaulay: We have the figure for the past five years. In relation to individual bannings over the past five years it has been 56 advisers and then in relation to enforceable undertakings there has been another 12.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: It is 56 over the past five years?</p> <p>Mr Kell: And 12 additional effective bans of three years, so effectively it is 68.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: How many last year?</p> <p>Mr Kell: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: You see that is not an unpacked number. That is just one number in five years, so any number that you have.</p> <p>Mr Kell: That is all we have in front of us today, but we are very happy to provide that on notice.</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	91
AET 35-36	2	Dastyari, Sam	Graeme Cowper	<p>Senator DASTYARI: You know that obviously much of the focus in the media on the weekend was regarding this financial planner called Graeme Cowper who was the most prolific, it appears from the information that is now in the public domain. Do you know how many clients Mr Cowper had?</p> <p>Mr Kell: I am not aware of that. We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: They compensated 30 of his clients.</p> <p>Mr Kell: Thirty-nine.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: It is 39, and then said they ran out of resources. What information do you have on Mr Cowper? It sounds like you have got something on him because you are going through papers at the moment.</p> <p>Mr Kell: This is very early days. I hope you understand that this has come up in the last few days.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: How is this early days? It is CommBank all over again. The warning signs have been there. You have been warned about this over time. You went through the entire scandal with the CBA where a lot of these issues had already been canvassed and now we are here, a year later, and it is like: oh wow, this whole new thing has happened with a whole new bank.</p> <p>Mr Kell: One of the things that we are going to be testing is whether the action taken in relation to Mr Cowper, including the compensation, was adequate. I have explained that it is going to be a high priority for us to assess that.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Do you have a time frame of when you expect you will have that process completed?</p> <p>Mr Kell: I do not want to make a promise that I cannot meet, so we will get back to you very soon on that.</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	91
AET 37	1	O'Neill, Deborah	Funding for ASIC	<p>Senator O'NEILL: I would like to follow up on a couple of matters that have been under discussion this afternoon. I have not seen you since the PJC put out the report on professional, ethical and education standards in the financial services industry. Clearly there have been a lot of calls here this evening for action in this space. Action, we know, requires money and you made some comments in your last statement about a user-pays method. So in light of the resource limitations which have been referred to since I have been here this afternoon, what is the situation in terms of ASIC getting the money to be able to do the policing and become the enforcement agency? I notice the shift in language has been very common. What is the situation with the money, to get the rubber on the road to get out and do the job that clearly needs to be done? I think that the community has an appetite for it to be done in a more proactive rather than reactive way? Where are we with the government's commitment to funding?</p> <p>Mr Medcraft: It is a matter for government. As I said before, you can have an ASIC at \$312 million or \$400 million or \$200 million; the amount of money the government allocates us is a choice of the level of resilience you want. In terms of these tight times we have said that probably the thing is to think about the user-pays funding model. Those that generate the need for regulation should pay for it so that we actually drive better co-regulation, or self-regulation, and compliance. At this stage, there are recommendations in front of the government as is part of the budgetary process.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Minister, is there any commitment to funding for ASIC? Clearly, there is a great need for more capacity. Is there a commitment to a pre-budget announcement by the government? Is there any money coming down the line?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: As the Minister for Social Services who is at the table for the Minister representing the Treasurer, I will take that on notice.</p>	Financial System and Services Division	Spoken	25.2.2015	97-98



AET 38	1	O'Neill, Deborah	PJC Report	<p>Senator O'NEILL: My final question relates to the report from the PJC and your response as an agency to the recommendations. You have made one point that Senator Dastyari picked up about an additional item on the register to indicate if somebody was summarily dismissed or terminated.</p> <p>Mr Medcraft: I was just highlighting that. I was not necessarily saying that is a recommendation from us. I was just highlighting the issue that was being raised that, compared to the United States, the register does not have that. It will not indicate the basis for leaving.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: I will provide an opportunity for you on notice to further inform the PJC of any other insights you have so that we can make that a part of any decision making that might be underway with the government.</p> <p>Mr Medcraft: We can provide what is on the FINRA—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: I invite you to expand on your remarks about the independence of a model of oversight as opposed to the recommendation that went to highly engaging the industry representatives. Can you put on the record your view?</p> <p>Mr Medcraft: With the US FINRA there are two differences in governance. FINRA is overseen by the SEC, which is the equivalent of ASIC. They are the oversight body. In the case of the model proposed, it was overseen by the Professional Standards Council. That is the model. The majority of the governors of FINRA are non-industry representatives, so the majority of the board are basically academics and consumer representatives. It is very independent. It is structured like that to be independent from industry, being that the majority are not industry representatives. It is there to assure investors that, even though it is an industry funded body, it is truly very independent. It was really just around those two things. As I said, the governance is important. The initiative, which I think is a great initiative, that is proposed is robust. We can provide more information on FINRA if you like.</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	99
AET 39	1	O'Neill, Deborah	Licensee structure	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Thank you. I will go the licensee structure because much has been said about the licensing and who is responsible for reporting to ASIC, the licensee. There is a series of employed people underneath that licensee. We had some discussions about this in the PJC. We have had assertions that there are only four licences held, for example, by one of the big banks and underneath that hundreds of advisers operate. Could you make clear to the committee what the structure is for NAB? How many licences does NAB have and how many advisers are underneath those licences?</p> <p>Ms Macaulay: The answer to your question, from my briefing, is that they have six licences and there are about 1,700 advisers.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: There are six licences and 1,700 advisers. What do they pay for those licences to ASIC every year?</p> <p>Mr Kell: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: You can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Kell: I think we should also take the opportunity just to make sure we have those figures right about the number of licences and planners.</p> <p>Mr Tanzer: The licences that they would have would also go to managed investment schemes and other types of relations for which they need an AFS licence.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So, a bit of a detailed analysis of the cost for them to establish that model; clearly, it is pretty murky in terms of having a look at who is in and who is out.</p> <p>Mr Medcraft: We will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: And how much they make.</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	99
AET 40	1	Williams, John	NAB legal action	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: Also, a couple of things, when you go through NAB, I believe NAB only compensated clients who contacted them and it took a long time. It would not surprise me if we see an enforceable undertaking on that, by the way, in the next 12 months. That is my pick. I have one point for Mr Price. When Mr Viscariello first contacted ASIC in Adelaide, I do not think he had started legal action.</p> <p>Mr Price: The proceedings.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: He had. When he first contacted ASIC in Adelaide?</p> <p>Mr Price: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: That was long before he contacted me.</p> <p>Mr Price: I might need to take that on notice to check the chronology.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: That would be good, to find out if the legal action had started then. Also, with Stuart Ariff, he has destroyed a lot of people's lives. People are getting consumed inside with bitterness over what he has done to them. I would like to talk to you later on about a re-visit of that. You said it is always open?</p> <p>Mr Price: Yes.</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	100

AET 41	1	Canavan, Matthew	Criminal prosecution of financial advisers	<p>Senator CANAVAN: Senator Dastyari asked questions and I think you have banned around 60 advisers. I cannot remember the exact number.</p> <p>Mr Medcraft: It was 68.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: In any of those cases, or other cases indeed, have the investigations resulted in a criminal prosecution that has put someone in jail?</p> <p>Mr Kell: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: How many?</p> <p>Mr Tanzer: Last year we conducted 31 criminal actions resulting in 30 criminal convictions and 14 people jailed.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Does that—</p> <p>Mr Tanzer: No. That is a total. I would have to come back to you with the detail.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: We will have to put that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Tanzer: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: That is fine on notice; it is about financial planners in particular.</p> <p>Mr Mullaly: In the last five years there have been 19 criminal convictions. There are four matters currently before the courts and 17 other matters currently under investigation.</p> <p>Mr Kell: Criminal investigation.</p> <p>Mr Mullaly: That is the financial advice industry.</p> <p>Mr Tanzer: Two weeks ago there was a conviction of a Melinda Scott, financial planner, guilty of defrauding with six years and nine months' jail.</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	102
AET 42	1	Williams, John	Trio Capital	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: In a case like this, when it is obvious there are problems. Can an application be made to AUSTRAC to freeze funds or bank accounts of suspected parties? If so, why wasn't it done in this case?</p> <p>Mrs Rowell: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: No-one from the front seats there can help?</p> <p>Mrs Rowell: No.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Has any money been recovered out of this whole debacle? If so, where from and how much?</p> <p>Mrs Rowell: Are you talking specifically about Ualan?</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: About this whole Trio Capital issue.</p> <p>Mrs Rowell: There has been money recovered. I could not tell you how much. I would need to take that on notice.</p>	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	Spoken	25.2.2015	115
AET 43	1	Ketter, Chris	How many lenders approximatley does APRA's current policy affect	<p>Senator KETTER: Thank you. My question is about your current macroprudential policy. I am interested in how many lenders approximately does APRA's current policy affect?</p> <p>Mr Byres: We wrote to all authorised deposit-taking institutions—ADIs, in shorthand jargon—which are banks, credit unions and building societies. We wrote to all of them in December with our views on what we thought would be good practice in terms of maintaining sound lending standards. Off the top of my head, I would say we have about 150 ADIs in total. I could get you the exact number but I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: How many of those have invest-alone portfolios growing at more than 10 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Byres: If you wanted an exact number I would have to take it on notice, but it is in the order of perhaps one-quarter of them, maybe a bit less than that, in the last financial year that were growing faster than that. But, just to be clear, the issues we are focusing on—as I did mention in the opening statement, which I have tabled—our focus is less on what people have done and more what on they plan to do in the year ahead.</p>	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	Spoken	25.2.2015	116
AET 44	1	Xenophon, Nick	Price of petrol	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Finally, in respect of that, if there was an app that basically all consumers could access as to what the price of petrol was in the last half-hour in their particular community, city or region, you are saying that that almost real-time disclosure would be a bad thing for consumers?</p> <p>Mr Sims: It is not a bad thing for consumers. Our concern is whether it allows the petrol companies to signal their intentions and quickly get others to follow. Our experience is that the members of informed sources—and these are allegations; this is before the court—would provide information and quickly learn from each other and the price rises quite fast and the reason the price comes down is usually because somebody outside that network lowers the price. So we have serious concerns with the network that exists now. You are asking the hypothetical question: if people put prices on apps in the community—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: You might want to take this on notice. My time is up, but I would be grateful if you could take any further considerations on notice. Thank you.</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	121

AET 45	1	Madigan, John	Safe Cable	<p>Senator MADIGAN: How many houses have had their wiring retrofitted with safe cable?</p> <p>Mr Ridgway: At the moment, more than 140 homes have been remediated since the recalls were initiated in August 2014. Apparently approximately 400 remediation jobs are planned to be performed in coming weeks that we know of from one of the larger recalling parties.</p> <p>Senator MADIGAN: So 140 homes out of 40,000 have been fixed up to date.</p> <p>Mr Ridgway: It is a potential 40,000. Our extrapolation of numbers with the 40,000 relates to the average amount of cable used in an average residential property.</p> <p>Senator MADIGAN: How does this compare to the average for returned product for recalls conducted by the ACCC?</p> <p>Mr Ridgway: The rate of return for products varies according to product category. In some categories, such as motor vehicles, where there are very good details and there are service regimes for motor vehicles themselves, components are replaced often quite promptly in a servicing schedule within a period of a year or so and where the suppliers have accurate contact details of the purchases. In other cases, such as in the building sector, it can take a number of years for remediation to take place. We had an example of bathroom heating lamps at one stage where the remediation exercise took a number of years to undertake.</p> <p>Senator MADIGAN: What is the budgetary cost of this program for the ACCC, specifically with the electrical cables recall?</p> <p>Mr Sims: In terms of our item resource expenditure?</p> <p>Senator MADIGAN: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Ridgway: We have a dedicated recalls team dealing with recalls most generally. In the process of responding to the Infinity cable matter we found it necessary to take one officer offline entirely to deliver that work for a period of time, so there would be the net cost of that officer, which we could calculate, but I would say it would be in arranged—</p> <p>Senator MADIGAN: Could you take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Ridgway: On notice is probably better.</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	125
AET 46	1	Madigan, John	Product recalls	<p>Senator MADIGAN: Are you able to tell us—or take it on notice—how much does the ACCC spend each year on product recalls?</p> <p>Mr Ridgway: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MADIGAN: Could you perhaps take on notice to provide a record of all recalls over the last five years, and indicate each recall's respective budgetary cost for the agency, the percentage of faulty product return for each recalled item and, if known, the refund and administrative cost for the importer retailer. You have told us that does not happen; they get off scot-free.</p> <p>The AIG, in their submission to DFAT on the Australia-China Free Trade Agreement state:</p> <p>... many manufactured goods imported from China do not meet Australian safety and quality regulations and standards and the removal of tariffs under an Australia-China FTA may exacerbate this situation;</p> <p>They go on:</p> <p>Related to this are uncertainties about how potential breach of contract and delivery of faulty Chinese products will be properly dealt with, including processes around insurance claims and other legal resolution channels</p> <p>My question is: what is your understanding of how Australian consumers and businesses impacted by unsafe products from China subject to an ACCC recall are able to pursue remedy for loss from China? Which of the challenges that are outlined in their submission by AIG are valid?</p> <p>Are you able to tell us on notice?</p> <p>Mr Sims: I will pass to Nigel in a second, but we do not have a sense of what percentage of imports from any particular country might cause problems. We just deal with individual issues that arise. The issue with the infinity cables is one of the most egregious we have had to deal with. But, specifically, in terms of the liability for the foreign manufacturer the problem is that it is the importer who we have to deal with, not the manufacturer—if I understand the question.</p> <p>Senator MADIGAN: So the ACCC keep no statistics about recalls or—</p> <p>Mr Sims: No, we have statistics on everything we have done. We can answer the question you provided, on notice. We have all the recall statistics of everything we have recalled. We can provide you with that, but what I am saying is that we do not have a sense of how many imports there are and what percentage have been recalled. We just deal with the recalls themselves. We can give you all those statistics.</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	126

AET 47	1	Williams, John	EBITDA	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: You looked at that EBITDA multiple for JBS, did you?</p> <p>Mr Sims: We were aware of it, yes.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: That should have prompted you into undertaking extremely serious scrutiny of the deal, when they were prepared to pay so much to take out their opposition to get more buyer power. This is a problem. This is my final question. In 2009 the ACCC approved the purchase of ABB in South Australia by Viterra. This was an environment of deregulation of the Australian Wheat Board single desk. Your outfit got it wrong. For the next four years, parliamentary committees were dealing with the competition bottleneck issue that you created. In 2012 you had a further opportunity to review the mess, and it stayed the same. To your credit, you recognised your mistake. I read from your media release that said:</p> <p>The ACCC recognised a number of concerns raised during its public review process. In particular, Viterra is in a strong position in South Australia with a monopoly—</p> <p>100 per cent—</p> <p>Mr Sims: Correct.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: The media release goes on:</p> <p>... position in bulk grain port terminal services and significant market share in up-country grain storage and handling.</p> <p>However ...</p> <p>Section 50 cannot address issues arising from existing market power, only competition concerns that are likely to result from the proposed acquisition which is being assessed.</p> <p>So you made a monopoly; then you were stuck with it and you admitted your mistakes.</p> <p>Mr Sims: I will check and get back to you, but I do not believe we made the monopoly. I think we have only ever allowed takeovers that were already a monopoly, but I will get back to you on that.</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	135
AET 48	1	Dastyari, Sam	Risk Averse	<p>Senator DASTYARI: I am very conscious of the time. I am wondering if you are able to take this broader issue—because I do not think we are giving enough justice to the issue, no pun intended—on notice. If you are able, in the light of day, for the committee—I know there are so many pressures on your time and on your teams' time—to expand a bit on the broader issue. Again, if it was not something that was really covered in the Harper submission that you made, could you explore with us ways in which this access to justice issue is something that can be addressed?</p> <p>Mr Sims: I am happy to do that. Could I just add that every indication we have is that the Harper review will be wrestling with this issue. It is an issue that is very much front of their mind. I do not know where they are going to get, but I know they are giving it a lot of thought.</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Spoken	25.2.2015	140
AET 49	1	Dastyari, Sam	Fly-in fly-out workers	<p>Senator DASTYARI: You are saying that, to address some of these concerns, it is part of your suite of measures that you have put a proposal to government, including the census and other things that you have already talked about. Part of those proposals for your future plan includes getting better data for fly-in fly-out workers?</p> <p>Mr Harper: Yes.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: And the way you want to do that is by including questions in existing surveys or by creating a new survey?</p> <p>Mr Harper: It is effectively a combination of the two. I do not want to go into any more detail than that. The challenge that we have at the moment is that we do not necessarily have the right questions, but we also do not have the survey vehicles with the right frequency in order to get good, ongoing information. We would like to address both of those things as part of a broader package of reform.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: You have already been trialling which questions or surveys will give you that data you need?</p> <p>Mr Kalisch: Yes, we have been doing some field testing.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: How long have you been doing the field testing?</p> <p>Mr Harper: I would have to take the specifics on notice, but it would be at least 12 months.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: This is not exact, but over a period of time you have done field surveys on this issue that have informed the proposal that you have put to government as to what you want to do as part of your future work plan?</p> <p>Mr Kalisch: I think you should expect that the ABS does things in a very considered way.</p>	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Spoken	26.2.2015	18

AET 50	1	Dastyari, Sam	Insurance Brokers, ASIC and APRA	<p>Senator DASTYARI: You understand, Ms Quinn, that that is the whole concern. The whole concern is that you are allowing insurers into the market that are not governed by APRA and yet you are saying that you have not spoken to APRA about what consequence that would have on the authorised insurance market.</p> <p>Ms Quinn: No—we certainly have talked to APRA through this period.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: You have?</p> <p>Ms Quinn: Yes, we have talked to both to APRA and ASIC.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: You have consulted with both APRA and ASIC?</p> <p>Ms Quinn: Yes.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: But ASIC are the regulators?</p> <p>Ms Quinn: Yes.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: You may have this information with you, but: when? Has there been a formal meeting about this? Have there been informal conversations? Has there been both?</p> <p>Ms Quinn: It has mostly been through emails and discussion in phone conversations. I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Can you take the question on notice? The question is: what types of communication have there been? Has there been a formal, proper consultation process? At this point are the regulations with government, or they are still being drafted?</p> <p>Ms Quinn: I will have to double-check exactly where they are at the moment. The usual process is that regulations are provided for consultation. Once they have been drafted, there is the consultation process—different types of consultation processes which the government decides on at different times. That formal consultation, after final drafting of the draft regulations, has not occurred yet because the draft regulations are not in the public domain. We have not got to that formal stage yet. There have been informal discussions that you have with the drafters; for example, as to how they interact with existing legislation, how they interact with different market conditions. In that process the usual course of events is that we consult with our regulators. Most of the regulations they have to implement or they have implications for other acts that they operate under.</p>	Financial System and Services Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	19
AET 51	1	Bushby, David	Competitiveness in the banking industry	<p>Senator BUSHBY: I might ask a couple of questions on banking, so I can get an update on where things are at, but first a general comment on the current level of competitiveness in the banking industry. I know at the moment things are not particularly hot. The low official cash rate means that interest rates are low and that the dust has settled. It is not a particularly hot political issue at the moment. Nonetheless, competitiveness still is relevant to millions of Australians. Can you make some opening comments on that, and maybe in doing so you could provide some information on the percentage of home loans that are currently held by the four big banks and what the trend is showing there. Any information you might have on net interest margins and trends there would be useful.</p> <p>Ms Quinn: The issue of competitiveness in the banking sector was addressed in the financial system inquiry that looked at this issue as part of its terms of reference. They found that, on balance, the market was competitive but that it would need to be watched going forward as things evolved. It was very important for the market to be in the system but for the system, and the banking sector in particular, to be competitive on efficiency grounds. Net interest margins have come down in recent times, across the major banks in particular. We have seen net interest margins at the lowest level since 2002, which suggests that there is particular competitive tension in the market in recent times. That likely reflects the banks having to adjust to a financial system that is growing more slowly as a whole system. When we had nominal GDP growth—significantly stronger than we have now—the whole system was growing, and account balance sheets were growing as a result. But now in the context of a macro economy, where nominal GDP is more modest, the banks need to look harder to expand their balance sheets and competition.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: Fighting for every new deal.</p> <p>Ms Quinn: Competition would be expected to be tightened and the net interest margins indicate that it has tightened in recent times. It is the case that the four large banks still have the vast bulk of lending across the loans for almost everything.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: I would expect that.</p> <p>Ms Quinn: I could take it on notice if you like.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: The trend, whether that is remaining static or increasing, decreasing, is what I would be most interested there.</p>	Financial System and Services Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	22
AET 52	1	Bushby, David	Securitisation market figures	<p>Ms Quinn: We have had a shift. In terms of access to funding, banks have reported that they have not had any issues with access to funding. The markets have continued to—</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: What about smaller operators?</p> <p>Ms Quinn: Smaller operators have also found, for example, the securitisation market has been very healthy in recent times. That particularly helps smaller entities that have mortgages to be able to recycle their funding. We have seen the securitisation market be very positive for the small end of the system.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: Do you have any figures on how much has gone through the securitisation market?</p> <p>Ms Quinn: I do have figures on that. I am happy to provide it on notice, in the interests of time.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY: Okay. Take it on notice. That is fine.</p>	Financial System and Services Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	22-23

AET 53	1	Ketter, Chris	Foreign investment policy	<p>Senator CANAVAN: Let us get this exactly right. The former Labor government made a change to a policy on 24 April 2010, and that is the policy we are talking about, the foreign investment policy, and that change came in on the day it was announced, with no forewarning.</p> <p>Mr Lonsdale: We do not have the press release going back five years. But the idea that there can be government announcements with very quick implementation and effect is not unusual and certainly not unprecedented.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: It is important in this policy space for the reason that Senator Edwards alluded to earlier, which is that you want to make sure that you bring policy intentions, once they are settled upon, to effect relatively quickly to minimise the risk of market distortions.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: I have a point of clarification on the 1 March start date for the policy. Perhaps this is a question for the minister: who determined that 1 March start date for the policy?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I would have to take that on notice, Senator Ketter.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Minister, why was 1 March chosen when clearly the department is not ready?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I dispute the notion that the department is not ready, but I will take that on notice, along with the question of who selected 1 March. I am sure it was subject to proper processes. Obviously, I am the minister representing in this regard and I do not have sufficient knowledge of that to provide you with an appropriately informed response.</p>	Foreign Investment and Trade Policy Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	37
AET 54	1	Milne, Christine	Due diligence procedures in regard to foreign investment	<p>Senator Birmingham: Even process questions, I imagine, have market sensitivities attached to them.</p> <p>Mr Donnelly: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: I want to ask about the due diligence procedures you engage in with regard to foreign investment. There have been a lot of allegations that money laundering has been occurring, particularly out of China, with a Chinese bank being named in the media as basically running a service offering corrupt Chinese officials an opportunity to basically funnel the money through the bank and invest overseas, and Australia is one of the countries concerned. I want to know: what is your due diligence procedure? Have you been contacted by the Chinese embassy in Australia with regard to trying to track down officials who are bringing in money, they allege illegally obtained in China, and funnelling it through into Australia into various investments?</p> <p>Mr Donnelly: As I was explaining to Senator Canavan a moment ago, the standard course for each of our cases as they come in is that we will do an initial assessment of the application and the case officer will then distribute the relevant aspects of that application to various different consultation agencies. Those agencies invariably include the ATO. They may also include the ACCC, the national security agencies and the criminal enforcement agencies: the AFP and AUSTRAC. In cases where those consult agencies identify concerns, those concerns are evaluated as part of the national interest test.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: So that is the procedure. So have you been contacted by the Chinese embassy in Australia with regard to particular investments and the issue of money laundering?</p> <p>Mr Donnelly: I am not aware of the answer to that question; I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Okay. If you are not aware of that, are you aware of any concerns that have been acted on by FIRB?</p> <p>Mr Lonsdale: I think that is another one that we would have to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Okay. So you cannot provide me with any information upfront about this particular issue?</p> <p>Mr Lonsdale: I cannot provide you with information on that now, but I am happy to take the question away on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Okay; thank you.</p>	Foreign Investment and Trade Policy Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	41
AET 55	1	Canavan, Matthew	Temporary residents notifying FIRB of purchases	<p>Senator CANAVAN: I will finish my question. What I am particularly interested in is: when that change was made, in 2008, to remove the requirement on temporary residents to notify FIRB of purchases, was that introduced at the time it was announced? Was there any delay between the announcement and the changed requirements?</p> <p>Mr Lonsdale: We would have to take that on notice.</p>	Foreign Investment and Trade Policy Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	44

AET 56	1	Dastyari, Sam	Campaign related activity	<p>Senator DASTYARI: Is the answer that you got advice from Finance and Finance told you that you did not have to go to campaigns—what is it called, when it is over \$250,000?</p> <p>All government advertising has to go through—there are new rules, but there were still interim rules in place—the Department of Finance. It does not go through a process but you have to meet the campaign advertising guidelines. I am sure Senator Birmingham is fully aware of that. So the question is: if it is above the \$250,000 spend, have you checked whether or not you have to look at meeting the campaign advertising guidelines? That is the question. You may not have to, but did you look to see whether you had to meet them?</p> <p>Mr Lonsdale: Our understanding—just to follow on from Mr Brake—is that the process that we followed is fully consistent with the guidelines. We talked to the Department of Finance. I will just check with Mr Hickey to see whether there is anything to add.</p> <p>Mr Hickey: In terms of the timing around those, it was while the interim guidelines were still in place. Around the value, in relation to campaigns or campaign related activity, as I said yesterday, this is not a campaign. The research and the work that have been undertaken would still abide by those guidelines. Having the secretary ultimately sign off is in line with the principles.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I will happily take on notice whether there is anything else to add to that. It strikes me—and I am not familiar with the detail of this—that what the officials have been outlining is more engagement strategy than advertising campaign. But, as I said, if there is anything that provides further clarification of the issues you have raised, Senator Ludwig and Senator Dastyari, we can certainly provide that.</p>	Ministerial and Communications Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	48
AET 57	1	Dastyari, Sam	Revenue raised from audits	<p>Senator DASTYARI: So there are 41 audits that are underway as part of that program. Do you anticipate that some of those will result in legal action where your ruling will be challenged by the company at hand?</p> <p>Mr Jordan: Yes, we do. Often the timing of that is a little bit out of our control because sometimes taxpayers do not provide us with the information we want as quickly as we would like. But we do have it as a priority. We do want to have either a resolution of the issue or the issues brought to the courts as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Mr Olesen: I will just correct an earlier answer. It turns out we have wrapped up a few of those audits already. There is \$250 million in liabilities that we have raised from those audits.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: How many out of the 41 is that?</p> <p>Mr Olesen: Just a handful. I do not have the precise number. There are several that have been completed already.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Obviously this is all subject to being challenged, because people have the right to challenge and there is a legal process to go through. Are you saying that just out of a handful of the 41 there is already the potential of \$250 million to be raised?</p> <p>Mr Olesen: We have raised liabilities.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: So you have raised \$250 million.</p> <p>Mr Jordan: And have issued assessments.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Do you have the figure for how many cases that is? Is that something someone can get?</p> <p>Mr Olesen: We can seek that for you.</p> <p>Senator DASTYARI: Is that something you can take on notice or something you can get now?</p> <p>Mr Jordan: We might be able to get it now.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Spoken	26.2.2015	54
AET 58	1	Milne, Christine	Revenue from high wealth individuals	<p>Senator MILNE: Can you just remind me of the timeframe for Project DO IT? When was it launched?</p> <p>Mr Jordan: 27 March 2014 to 19 December 2014.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: So over that period those disclosures came in. In total how much was disclosed of that? Is the \$4 billion in assets and the \$600 million separate to that?</p> <p>Mr Jordan: Yes. We are still going through it, because we did have a surge of disclosures in the last week. We estimate around \$4 billion in assets and around \$600 million in income.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: From those 5,600?</p> <p>Mr Jordan: 5,600.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Out of the \$4 billion and \$600 million, what percentage of that was from the 140-high wealth individuals? Do we know yet?</p> <p>Mr Olesen: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: When you have a final estimate.</p> <p>Mr Jordan: So you want to know how much from the 140 high wealth?</p> <p>Senator MILNE: And how much from the wealthy? How many of the 800 and then how much of the total from the rest, obviously as you break that down?</p> <p>Mr Jordan: We can do that.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Spoken	26.2.2015	58

AET 59-60	2	Ludwig, Joe	Farm-out arrangements	<p>Senator LUDWIG: You may or may not be familiar with the intimate detail of the farm-out arrangements in MT 2012/2. I am happy for you to take it notice. Mr Mills may be more familiar with it. What I was trying to establish is, with the farm-out arrangements that occurred in the exploration industry, how much revenue do you collect or how much tax deductibility do you provide? You do it company by company, and I am not asking for that level of detail and nor would you provide it. I am trying to ascertain whether you do it by class or if you can break down those numbers a little bit or just simply a gross figure of what the tax deductibility in that transfer arrangement is. There is a farmee and a farmer in that sense, which occurs, and there is a percentage of the interest that the recipient receives. That is section 730(1), for those who are interested in the tax act.</p> <p>Mr Mills: We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: I thought you might. Have I provided enough clarity about what I was after?</p> <p>Mr Mills: Yes.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: The second question relates to this area as well, which goes to deductions under section 40-730 of the Income Tax Assessment Act. This is about resource and exploration companies. I am just curious as to how you treat those tax deductions. To give you a bit more detail so you can get your head around it—there is tax deductibility for exploration. What I was trying to establish was the breakdown of that value or how you would put it of those tax deductibilities and whether you break it down by the way they can do it so there is a direct deduction or, alternatively, they can pass it on for year to year. There are different accounting standards that are used. There are two primary accounting standards that are used. One of them effectively means that a company can explore and get a tax deduction for it. Another one is where a company might put it in their balance sheet as an asset and hold it as an asset and then use that asset as security against loans or what have you. I was not so much interested in the company side of it but how the tax department treats those transfers and what tax deductibility is provided to the various companies in a grossed up sense. It would be good if you can break it down, but if you can only provide it in a gross amount I am happy with that too. I certainly do not want to explore individuals.</p> <p>Mr Mills: There are obviously deductions available for exploration under a number of different sections. 40-730 is one of them. Are you looking for us to provide some analysis under those different provisions?</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: If you can provide some of the other provisions that would be helpful. These are the only ones I have been able to find. As you can appreciate, and not meaning to be sharp, it is a dense piece of legislation. If there are other provisions you can take me to them as well. I am not after a lot of work. If I want to follow it up even more I will come back in June.</p> <p>Mr Mills: I will take that on notice.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Spoken	26.2.2015	61-62
AET 61	1	Ketter, Chris	ATO resource allocation	<p>Senator KETTER: Let us take an average sized company, if there is such a thing, if you have a metric like that—at the medium risk profile. Not so much in terms of the length of time, but do you have a number of staff that you would allocate to that particular company or a certain number of man hours associated with it?</p> <p>Mr Reardon: We would have. I cannot give you the figures right now, but we are happy to take that on notice and look at our program and provide our staffing in those sorts of quadrants.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Yes. I noticed there was a recent jump between 2013-14 in the total rated companies, 905 up to 33,000.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Spoken	26.2.2015	65
AET 62	1	Ketter, Chris	ATO staff allocated to investigating avoidance and aggressive tax planning	<p>Senator KETTER: I am just following up on Senator Dastyari's line of questioning and I do not want to go back over things that we have already talked about. If I were to describe staff in this area as investigation and compliance, would that be the 700 that I think you mentioned earlier?</p> <p>Mr Reardon: They would be called investigators, compliance officers and auditors. A lot of them have audit experience, auditing backgrounds and audit skills.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Of these staff, how many are dedicated to investigating corporate tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning?</p> <p>Mr Reardon: I can only talk for the public listed groups. As I said, we have nearly 700 staff who are focused on publicly listed companies and doing audits and reviews of those companies.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: If I was to ask you about investigations into tax evasion and avoidance by small business would it be the same answer?</p> <p>Mr Olesen: We have been talking about the large corporate market so far in your questions.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Small business.</p> <p>Mr Olesen: We have resources applied across all market segments—individuals, small businesses, private groups and large groups. We have resources devoted to criminal activity and working with partner agencies. We have resources devoted to looking at superannuation, excise, tobacco and wine rebates. We have resources spread across the range of risks that we need to address.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: So, you would not be able to give me a specific number for small business?</p> <p>Mr Olesen: A specific number about what?</p> <p>Senator KETTER: For tax evasion and avoidance.</p> <p>Mr Olesen: We could give you a specific number, for example, about how many resources we have, for example, looking at the cash economy. That is a kind of evasion, if you like. We could probably give you a number that we spend matching undeclared bank account or dividend income. That is a kind of evasion too or sometimes it is just a mistake. It is hard to draw the boundary between different kinds of behaviour. It is a little bit hard to be precise about what the analysis would be.</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: Perhaps we can take on notice what we can answer.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Would you be able to break that down to the number of staff investigating individual tax non-compliance?</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: We will give you what we can.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Spoken	26.2.2015	68



AET 63-64	2	Ketter, Chris	Regulatory impact statement and small business election commitments	<p>Mr Heferen: My recollection is that was a clear-cut election commitment. I stand to be corrected, but I am not aware of—I do not recall what regulatory impact statement was done for that. The two things that you mentioned, the immediate write-off for small business and the loss carry-back, I recall they were both policy measures directly packaged with the MRRT, and then the government's clear commitment was to abolish the MRRT and repeal those measures associated with it. That went forward in that package. I am guessing a regulatory impact statement would not have been done, because it was a clear election commitment. We will check that and when we get information on that I will be able to confirm.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: If you do not have a regulatory impact statement would you be able to provide an estimate as to what the cost to small business was of those two measures?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Are you aware of the peak body representing small business, COSBOA, coming out and saying it was a failure of government to understand small business and not only that, making retrospective changes takes the issue to a whole new level for business, and concerns about certainty and planning? Are you aware of those comments?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I am not aware of those specific comments. I do recall some discussions we had. It is not as if this was a surprise. It was pretty clearly articulated from quite early on in the piece. I suspect, with a lot of these things, there is a bit of rhetorical flourish in some of the public communication. My very clear recollection was there were quite specific commitments about what was to happen and, indeed, when it was to happen from. My recollection is that the various amending legislation put that in place. So, there were no surprises. The only changes I recall made were on several measures where there needed to be negotiations to get various measures through the Senate. I do not recall those two being part of that. My recollection was that was part of the original package.</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: That is certainly my understanding.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: The specific issue, if my memory serves me correctly, was the retrospectivity and the fact that the measures were introduced in the middle of a financial year.</p> <p>Senator Ronaldson: I will take on notice any difference between the election commitment and the final outcome with the proviso about what may or may not have been done in the Senate in relation to the package. I will take that on notice for you. I do not have those details in front of me. I am not the responsible minister, as you would appreciate. I will take on notice any difference there might be between the two.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I just wanted to correct something I said in response to Senator Ketter's query about the regulation impact statement for the instant asset write-off and the loss carry-back. The regulation impact statement for those was included in the explanatory memorandum for the legislation. I do not have the explanatory memorandum in front of me, but we just checked in fact that it was included in that. I did take something on notice. In that I will make sure that the relevant extracts are repeated in that question.</p>	Small Business Tax Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	68-70
AET 65	1	Ketter, Chris	Costs to small business	<p>Senator KETTER: On this particular subject, can you provide me with an estimate as to what additional costs would be imposed on small businesses by the ATO if they receive an amended tax notice and if they are unable to pay the tax by the due date?</p> <p>Mr Jordan: You are asking about additional costs to small business if they get an amended tax assessment and they are not able to pay the amount by the due date?</p> <p>Senator KETTER: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Jordan: We would typically try to work with the small business to come to a payment arrangement. We have fairly sophisticated tools that look at the viability of the business to see what level of free cash flow is coming out. We are becoming a lot more flexible in some of these things. If it is the first time that a small business has a debt with us that they cannot meet the obligation of we do work with them to make sure there is some payment arrangement that is reasonable to them to keep the business afloat. Clearly, we need to work in a different way with taxpayers who regularly have disputes and debts with us. We try to have a differentiated, more flexible and more reasonable approach if it is a first-time issue. I am not sure we could actually get the costs that they might have to deal with. The procedure is to specifically sit down and work with them, analyse their business and if we believe they have a reasonable opportunity to pay the debt off, what we do is work with them to come to a mutually agreed payment schedule.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: In the interests of time, can you take that issue on notice and give a more considered response?</p> <p>Mr Jordan: I will. I am cautious as to what the form of measurement of those costs in that situation.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Spoken	26.2.2015	69
AET 66	1	Williams, John	ATO Compliance Program	<p>For over a decade, from 2002, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) published a detailed and comprehensive annual Compliance Program, focusing on all aspects of the tax and superannuation systems. This was of great benefit to all Australian taxpayers and their advisers. The annual published ATO Compliance Program, appearing each July, told taxpayers and their advisers – openly and transparently – precisely and in detail what activities were attracting the ATO's attention, precisely and in detail what risks the ATO was seeing, and precisely and in detail what remedies the ATO was adopting. The ATO stated in the ATO corporate plan 2014-18 – released on 1 July 2014 – that it was “committed to maximizing voluntary compliance with a balanced and targeted compliance program based on transparency, risk and behavior.” However, the ATO has not published a Compliance Program for 2014-15.</p> <p>66. Why has the ATO abandoned publication of its annual Compliance Program, while saying – at the same time – in the ATO corporate plan 2014-18 that it is “committed to” such a Compliance Program?</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Written	5.3.2015	

AET 67-68	2	Williams, John	ATO Compliance Program for 2014-15	<p>Ever since at least 11 September 2013, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has stated on its website that it develops “an annual work program” and that – each year – it publishes that “work program in our compliance program, identifying what activities are attracting our attention, what we see as risks and what remedies we will adopt. The program focuses on all aspects of the tax and superannuation systems, including how we work with tax practitioners.” In fact, the ATO has not published a Compliance Program for 2014-15, either at the normal time of July 2014 or at any time since.</p> <p>67.Why has the ATO not published a Compliance Program for 2014-15?</p> <p>68.Why has the ATO stated on its website – ever since July 2014 – that it publishes a Compliance Program “each year”, when in fact it appears it has never published a Compliance Program for the current year of 2014-15?</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Written	5.3.2015	
AET 69	1	Williams, John	ATO Annual Work Program	<p>Ever since at least 11 September 2013, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has stated on its website that it develops “an annual work program to support those [taxpayers] at the base of the [compliance] pyramid, who are willing to do the right thing, and influence or deter those at the tip, who chose not to comply.” 69.Does the ATO have such an “annual work program” for 2014-15? a.If so, where may that annual work program be viewed or accessed by taxpayers and their advisers? b.If not, why not?</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Written	5.3.2015	
AET 70-79	10	Cameron, Doug	Trusts Taskforce	<p>With reference to the \$67.9 million provided to the Australian Taxation Office in the 2013-14 Budget for the establishment of a Trusts Taskforce within the ATO (2013-14 Budget Paper No. 2; p.43):</p> <p>70. Is the Trusts Taskforce is still in place?</p> <p>71. How many staff are principally engaged on the work of the Trusts Taskforce?</p> <p>72. Has the number of staff engaged on the work of the Trusts Taskforce changed since October 2013? If so, are more or less staff engaged on its work?</p> <p>73. What is the nature of the work the Trusts Taskforce has been undertaking from 1 July 2013 to date?</p> <p>74. Has the Trusts Taskforce uncovered aggressive tax planning, tax avoidance and tax evasion related to trusts?</p> <p>75. If so, what is the scale of the aggressive tax planning, tax avoidance and tax evasion found and what enforcement action has been taken?</p> <p>76. What structural weaknesses or perceived structural weaknesses in the law are being exploited for the purpose of tax evasion related to trusts?</p> <p>77. Has the Trusts Taskforce identified any individual tax advisers or groupings of tax advisers who are involved in promoting schemes that are designed to assist in tax evasion and/or avoidance related to trusts?</p> <p>78. How much revenue has been generated or is expected to be generated as a result of the work of the Trusts Taskforce?</p> <p>79. Has there been any change in the revenue expected to be generated as a result of the work of the Trusts Taskforce since the 2013-14 Budget?</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 80-88	9	McLucas, Jan	COAG Council pm Federal Financial Relations meetings	<p>For all of the COAG Council on Federal Financial Relations meetings conducted from June 2014 to the present:</p> <p>80. On what date/s has the COAG Council on Federal Financial Relations' agenda included issues relating to Housing and Homelessness?</p> <p>81. What was the nature of the agenda item/s?</p> <p>82. What is being done yet to replace the reports published by the former National Housing Supply Council?</p> <p>83. What section of Treasury is undertaking this work?</p> <p>84. How is the data being collected?</p> <p>85. What are the sources of data for collection?</p> <p>86. What methodologies are being employed to gather this data?</p> <p>87. What is being done with the data collected?</p> <p>88. Is this data publicly available?</p>	Commonwealth-State Relations Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 89	1	McLucas, Jan	Commonwealth of Audit Recommendations	<p>Has Treasury undertaken any analysis of the Commission of Audit recommendations on the application of Commonwealth Rent Assistance to private rentals? 89. What would be the impact on: Rental costs - State and Territory public housing arrangements</p>	Social Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 90	1	McLucas, Jan	National Affordable Housing Agreement	<p>The Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations National Affordable Housing Agreement performance reporting document in December 2013 says “The Australian Government has announced its intention to disband the National Housing Supply Council”. It goes on to say that, “further work is required to develop a measure and identify relevant data to support reporting against Performance indicator 8”. 90. What has happened as a result of the recommendation of that Report?</p>	Social Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	

AET 91-98	8	Ketter, Chris	Superannuation tax Concessions	<p>91. Is it true that the majority of superannuation tax concessions accrue to those in on the highest incomes?</p> <p>92. Is it also true that a large swathe of people getting preferential treatment on their superannuation earnings is not at risk of falling back on to the aged pension?</p> <p>93. Is the Department aware that ASFA –the peak superannuation body –has even acknowledged that concessions on investment earnings are skewed towards high income earners?</p> <p>94. Does the department accept that not dealing with this problem means that budget is worse off to the tune of tens of billions of dollars?</p> <p>95. Does Treasury still have a wellbeing framework? And is 'sustainability' and 'distribution' of opportunities a key part of this?</p> <p>96. Does Treasury agree that if there are significant inequities in the superannuation tax system, then this is affecting overall wellbeing of Australians?</p> <p>97. Will the forthcoming Tax White Paper canvass these issues?</p> <p>98. Statistically, if an average Australian works six months of the year, how much of that time is likely to be spent paying a taxation bill?</p>	Personal and Retirement Income Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 99-100	2	Ketter, Chris	Financial Systems Inquiry	<p>99. The final report of the Financial Systems Inquiry contained a number of recommendations relating to superannuation and the financial services sector. Has the Government sought briefs or asked for modelling from Treasury, on the below recommendations?</p> <p>100. Has Treasury conducted consultations with Government and stakeholders on these recommendations? If so what was the nature of those consultations with Government and Stakeholders? Recommendation 8 - Direct borrowing by superannuation funds Recommendation 9 - Objectives of the superannuation system Recommendation 10 - Improving efficiency during accumulation Recommendation 11 - The retirement phase of superannuation Recommendation 12 - Choice of fund Recommendation 13 - Governance of superannuation funds Recommendation 22 - Introduce product intervention power Recommendation 29 - Strengthening the Australian Securities and Investments Commission's funding and powers</p>	Financial System and Services Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 101-107	7	Ketter, Chris	Proposals for a medicare co-payment	<p>101. Throughout this GP Tax process, what consultation has been had with small businesses that would need to implement changes to their fee structures and payment arrangements.</p> <p>102. What advice has been given to the Minister or Treasurer about how the proposed changes would affect billing arrangements for these small businesses?</p> <p>103. In developing this advice, what consultation has Treasury had with small business? 104. Following the Minister's announcements to consult more, what consultations has Treasury had with small business?</p> <p>105. When and how were doctors advised of the \$20 reduction in the scheduled Medicare fee? 106. What analysis was undertaken to assess the impact on small business?</p> <p>107. Was a Regulatory Impact Statement prepared for Cabinet on the impact of changes to small business?</p>	Small Business Competition Consumer Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 108-116	9	Ketter, Chris	External Compliance Assurance Process	<p>108. How much money has it saved the ATO?</p> <p>109. Have there been any disputes between the ATO and internal audits so far? What were they? 110. Is there a risk that we lose the expertise inside the ATO to make sure the internal audits of these big companies are paying their fair share? 111. What strategies exist to detect multinational tax avoidance tactics within the ECAP program?</p> <p>112. What are the conditions under which the ECAP program will be considered a success and what conditions make a failure?</p> <p>113. When will the program be evaluate?</p> <p>114. There have been reports in the business press that the ATO has significantly increased the number of tax disputes it resolves out of court – could you detail how many settlements were reached between the ATO and companies in each of the past five financial years? Could you describe the trend in the number of settlements over the past five years in general terms – is it up or down? Why is this?</p> <p>115. One example of this is the settlement that was reached between the tax office and GE Capital in January over \$144 million in tax deductions – what were the reasons for ATO deciding not to pursue this case to its conclusion in court? Is it fair to say that the ATO now has an informal preference for settling cases out of court? If so, why?</p> <p>116. Does the ATO have any figures on the average revenue return for corporate tax disputes which are concluded through the legal process compared with those which are settled out of court?</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 117-122	6	Ketter, Chris	Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits-Commission	<p>117. How many staff does the ACNC currently have?</p> <p>118. It was recently reported that 23 per cent of ACNC's staff have left the agency in the past year – what do you attribute that rate of attrition to?</p> <p>119. Social Services Minister Scott Morrison was recently quoted as saying that abolishing the ACNC is not a high priority for him – what advice have you had from the Minister or representatives of the Department of Social Services about the ACNC's future since Mr Morrison took over the portfolio? 120. Have ACNC representatives met with Mr Morrison to discuss the organisation's future?</p> <p>121. Is the ACNC and its staff still operating under the assumption that it will be abolished in the near future?</p> <p>122. What impact has the continuing uncertainty about the ACNC's future had on the not-for-profit sector?</p>	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)	Written	6.3.2015	

AET 123-125	3	Leyonhjelm, David	2015 Intergenerational Report	<p>123. Chart 2.7 of the 2015 Intergenerational Report depicts projections of Commonwealth government net financial worth. Was any work done towards production of a chart with projections of net worth? a. If not: i. why not? ii. what additional assumptions, beyond those already made for the production of the report, would need to be made in order to produce projections of net worth? b. If so, can this work be provided to the Committee?</p> <p>124. What might net worth be in 2055, as a share of GDP, under the 'previous policy', 'currently legislated' and 'proposed policy' scenarios?</p> <p>125. For each of the 'previous policy' projections depicted in the 2015 Intergenerational Report, can the Treasury provide a variation that excludes the impact of policy decisions between the 2013 PEFO and the 2013-14 MYEFO?</p>	Budget Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 126	1	Leyonhjelm, David	SBT4293-4294 - Tobacco Tax	<p>126. Does your reply to question SBT 4293 4294 suggest that tobacco tax clearance data is of limited usefulness to assess the impact of plain packaging on tobacco consumption? a. If so, why did you not advise the Health Department of this caveat when you advised them of the clearance data? b. Have you since advised the Health Department of this caveat? Have you suggested to the Health Department that the reference to Treasury on their website should refer to this caveat, or be removed?</p>	Budget Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 127-130	4	Leyonhjelm, David	Competition Policy Review	<p>127. What resources were devoted to the Commission's submissions to the Competition Policy Review?</p> <p>128. What proportion of these resources were devoted to advocacy for policy and legislative change, rather than outlining the Commission's implementation of current policy and legislation? 129. Should an agency tasked with implementing and enforcing legislation advocate change to that legislation? Is there a distinction between the Commission and police forces, such that advocacy for legislative change is appropriate for the former, but not the latter? If so, what is that distinction? 130. What public benefit was achieved by pursuing the chicken industry over the labelling of free range eggs and free to roam broilers?</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 131-141	11	Dastyari, Sam	ASIC gutted by new data retention regime	<p>With reference to: ASIC gutted by new data retention regime, The Sydney Morning Herald, 12 November 2014.</p> <p>131. On 12 November 2014 a news article was published saying ASIC had been left off the list of agencies proposed to be able to access retained telecommunications data. Can you please give us some insight into how ASIC uses telecommunications data?</p> <p>132. What are the volumes of data are accessed by ASIC?</p> <p>133. What type of information is accessed?</p> <p>134. Has this information been critical in successful prosecutions of breaches of the law?</p> <p>135. How many cases?</p> <p>136. Are there some examples you could give?</p> <p>137. How would it impact ASICs operations if it were not able to access this data?</p> <p>138. Is it fair to say that some of ASICs prosecutions would not have been possible if access to this data was it available?</p> <p>139. What representations did ASIC make to the Government about being included on the list of approved agencies?</p> <p>140. Is it still the case that ASIC is not on the list?</p> <p>141. Did the Government indicate it would reconsider placing ASIC on the list of approved agencies?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 142-145	4	Dastyari, Sam	Financial Ombudsman's Service	<p>According to the Financial Ombudsmen Service (FOS), over the past five years since January 2010, 25 financial services providers have been unwilling or unable to comply with 114 determinations made in favour of consumers by FOS. As at 31 December 2014, the value of the outstanding determinations was over \$12.6 million, and with accruing interest it is estimated that this figure is approximately \$15 million. The Financial Systems Inquiry did not identify (or address) this gap in our financial system, these questions aim to hold the Government to account for the issues identified by the FOS. 142. Has the government sought policy advice to address this gap?</p> <p>143. What advice been provided to government to address this gap?</p> <p>144. What suggestions have FOS members offered to address this gap?</p> <p>145. What suggestions have consumer advocates offered to address this gap?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	

AET 146-156	11	Dastyari, Sam	Regulations for CFD and FX customers	<p>2012 Treasury Discussion Paper “Handling and use of client money in relation to over-the-counter derivatives transactions”. The paper invites further discussion:</p> <p>146. Has ASIC responded to this invitation?</p> <p>147. Has ASIC provided any recommendations or advice to Government on legislative reform to strengthen consumer protection for Australian CFD and retail FX investors?</p> <p>148. What is holding the government back on implementing any recommendations?</p> <p>I draw ASIC’s attention to an article by David Rogers in The Australian newspaper on January 24 headlined “Ignorance is Bliss for those blind to Swiss Crisis” which discusses the recent upheaval in global foreign exchange markets. In January, the Swiss National Bank removed its currency peg against the Euro, leading to the Swiss franc plummeting (40% against the Euro), and the collapse and bail out of a number of retail brokers around the world. The article highlights the legislative anomaly that allows any Australian licenced CFD and retail FX providers to use client money for purposes such as hedging, providing collateral and even meeting operational expenses. While some industry leaders voluntarily segregate and protect their client funds, there is a long tail of operators who continue to use client money for other purposes.</p> <p>149. Are retail investors who are with firms that do not fully segregate clients funds subject to a greater level of risk?</p> <p>150. Does ASIC agree this legislative loophole presents a risk? A serious risk?</p> <p>151. Could this regulatory anomaly possibly result in another MF Global situation, where retail investors suffered large scale losses?</p> <p>152. What regulatory protections exist for Australian retail investors in these sectors?</p> <p>153. Given that ASIC has in recent months issued warnings, cancelled licences and taken action to curb the activities of several Australian based firms offering retail FX and CFD trading services* is the agency concerned that the regulations relating to Australian domiciled companies remain comparatively lax compared to other jurisdictions?</p> <p>154. Is ASIC concerned about any CFD and leveraged FX providers?</p> <p>155. Has ASIC sought any information from any firms about their use of client funds after the Swiss Franc currency crisis?</p> <p>156. Are the regulations governing Australian licenced CFD and retail FX providers in urgent need of strengthening and overhaul?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 157-159	3	Dastyari, Sam	Statute of Limitations	<p>If the Statute of Limitations for failing to meet the best interest duty, engaging in misleading or deceptive conduct, or giving a defective statement of advice, or various State tort laws, was lifted from 6 to 10 or 12 years...</p> <p>157. How would this affect legal actions against financial advisors?</p> <p>158. Would it allow victims of criminals, such as Peter Holt and Steve Navra, to take meaningful legal action against their former advisors?</p> <p>159. Has ASIC ever considered the impact of changing the Statute of Limitations?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 160-164	5	Dastyari, Sam	NAB	<p>Two recommendations from the Senate Inquiry into the performance of ASIC: Recommendation 32 19.53 The committee recommends that ASIC publish on its website information about its secondment programs and the policies and safeguards in place that relate to these programs. Recommendation 33 19.56 The committee requests that the Commonwealth Ombudsman consider undertaking an own-motion investigation into the allegations related to the process that resulted in ASIC granting regulatory relief for generic online calculators in 2005. An investigation undertaken by the Ombudsman should, in particular, consider whether the process was undermined because ASIC did not adequately manage a conflict of interest identified by a person on secondment from a financial services firm. 160. Are there any secondees from private industry working at ASIC today? 161. Where is there public disclosure about the identity of secondees from private industry into ASIC and the type of work that they are doing over the course of their secondment?</p> <p>162. What are the identities of secondees from private industry to ASIC; who are their employers; and what functions have these secondees performed within ASIC, for the past ten years.</p> <p>163. Which other financial regulators around the world that host secondees from private industry? 164. Has any seconded from private industry has ever been involved in an ASIC matter that directly involves a conflict of interest with their employer? If so, how?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	

AET 165-175	11	Dastyari, Sam	Macquarie Bank	<p>165. Some reports were produced as part of the Macquarie Bank Enforceable Undertaking: can you please table: a. KPMG implementation report 2013 b. KPMG final report (January) 2015 c. The Deloitte Risk &amp; Culture review (conducted at Macquarie in 2013)</p> <p>166. How many managerial level staff did ASIC interview as part of their investigation of Macquarie?</p> <p>167. How many individual advisors and assistants did ASIC interview as part of their investigation of Macquarie?</p> <p>168. How many former Macquarie advisors are under investigation by ASIC?</p> <p>169. How many current Macquarie advisors are under investigation by ASIC?</p> <p>170. Did ASIC ever share press releases with Macquarie before issuing them? Why?</p> <p>171. With respect to allegations at Macquarie: is it 'best practice' to conduct an internal review, or something else, such as an independent external review?</p> <p>172. What were the internal audit failure rates?</p> <p>173. How many letters were sent to customers?</p> <p>174. How many complaints were received?</p> <p>175. How many cases have been paid out?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 176-178	3	Dastyari, Sam	Resourcing	<p>Background Choice Media Release, 20 Feb 2015: In a pre-budget submission the consumer advocacy group CHOICE has called for financial regulator, ASIC, to be given more resources to monitor industries that have proven dangerous to consumers, like the financial planning industry. "Australia's financial planning industry reads like a scandal rap sheet – CBA, Storm Financial, Great Southern, Westpoint, Fincorp, Trio, TimberCorp - which makes it even more alarming that less than 2% of financial advice licensees will be subject to proactive surveillance by ASIC," says CHOICE Chief Executive Alan Kirkland. "ASIC has made it clear that investigating financial advisers remains a top priority but limited resources only stretch so far. ASIC has lost a number of experienced staff already and with further planned government funding reductions the financial regulator expects to lose another 209 staff in 2014-15."</p> <p>176. ASIC has an important role in protecting consumers in relation to industries such as financial planning. There have recently been reports that ASIC has lost a number of experienced staff over the past year, could you please confirm these reports and discuss the nature of the staff lost, why they were lost and how the agency is continuing to function following the departure of these experienced staff?</p> <p>177. I understand that ASIC expects to lose another 209 staff in 2014-15, could you please detail the impact that this is likely to have on ASIC's operations?</p> <p>178. Are reports accurate that ASIC has only 35 staff allocated to oversee deposit-takers, credit and insurers?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 179-190	12	Dastyari, Sam	Register of Advisers	<p>179. Please provide an update on the implementation of the financial advisers register?</p> <p>180. What consultation with the sector and other stakeholders was undertaken?</p> <p>181. What feedback was received? What concerns were raised?</p> <p>182. What consultation has ASIC undertaken on the register with the Government?</p> <p>183. What consultation has ASIC undertaken on the register with the Clive Palmer?</p> <p>184. Has there been consultation with the Government on what information is to be included on the register?</p> <p>185. Exactly what information will be on the register?</p> <p>186. How will the information be verified as truthful and accurate?</p> <p>187. Who will be required to verify the accuracy of the information provided? Advisers, licensees, or ASIC?</p> <p>188. Is this different from other reporting obligations that ASIC is responsible for?</p> <p>189. Are there penalties for supplying misleading or untruthful information?</p> <p>190. Would it be fair to assume that if there are no obligations to verify the information provided, that it is unlikely to be discovered that someone has provided false information until possibly after fraud or criminal activity has occurred?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 191-196	6	Dastyari, Sam	Unauthorised Foreign Insurers	<p>191. Can you explain how the Government's decision on UFI's is consistent with a considered consultation?</p> <p>192. How many submissions were received as part of 'considered discussion paper process'? 193. How many submissions were supportive of the government's decision?</p> <p>194. Why is the Government wasting time and energy on a proposal that no one wants and could potentially put ordinary consumers at risk?</p> <p>195. Are UFIs currently writing home insurance on a large scale for ordinary consumers in North Queensland? What is stopping them now?</p> <p>196. What other consultation with the sector and other stakeholders was undertaken?</p>	Markets Group	Written	6.3.2015	

AET 197-200	4	Dastyari, Sam	Nominal GDP and Terms of trade	<p>197. How are the terms of trade comparing with macroeconomic forecasts in MYEFO?</p> <p>198. Terms of trade were predicted to fall by 13.5 per cent in MYEFO in 2014-15; can you provide more information about how the Terms of Trade has track against this prediction?</p> <p>199. Unless iron ore and coal rebound strongly, would it be correct to assume that there will be pretty significant revenue write downs in the upcoming Budget?</p> <p>200. When MYEFO was released the government said it would not seek to offset the impact falling iron ore prices would have on commonwealth revenues: is it likely that the Budget deficit will increase again from the \$40.4 billion forecast at the time of MYEFO?</p>	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 201-207	7	Dastyari, Sam	Implications for economy of 'unbalanced' house price growth	<p>201. What are the macroeconomic implications of rising house prices</p> <p>202. How will increasing land or leasing costs impact on Australia's competitiveness?</p> <p>203. Do the recent surge in house prices (in Sydney up to 30% over the last two years) affect the international competitiveness of domestic Australian firms?</p> <p>204. If a great proportion of savings/investment is invested in the housing market, how will this affect productivity growth?</p> <p>205. If a great volume of savings/investment is invested in the housing market, how will this affect productivity growth?</p> <p>206. Can it be asserted that higher housing/land costs are detrimental to productivity and competitiveness?</p> <p>207. What could the government could do to address some of these productivity and competitiveness issues?</p>	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 208-209	2	Dastyari, Sam	Importing of capital	<p>208. What is Treasury's view on the importing foreign capital into Australia?</p> <p>209. What would be the economic consequences if the influx of foreign capital was, for example, halved?</p>	Revenue Group	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 210-212	3	Dastyari, Sam	Importing of capital	<p>210. Does the Australian Government easily find buyers for its Commonwealth Government Securities (CGSs)?</p> <p>211. Are there any conditions on the sale of these CGSs that make Australia subservient to other foreign countries?</p> <p>212. Are the conditions with which the Australian Government finds buyers for its CGSs likely to change any time soon?</p>	AOFM	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 213	1	Dastyari, Sam	Importing of capital	<p>213. What levels of net debt does Australia hold compared to other countries?</p>	Fiscal Group	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 214-218	5	Dastyari, Sam	Government debt	<p>214. At what debt to GDP ratio does public debt negatively impact economic growth?</p> <p>215. What percent of GDP is public debt now?</p> <p>216. What is the public debt position of Greece?</p> <p>217. What are the Greek and Australian bond rates? What does that say about market appetite for government securities in both countries?</p> <p>218. How comparable are the Australian and Greek debt to GDP ratios?</p>	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 219-228	10	Dastyari, Sam	the Budget and macroeconomic management	<p>219. In a broad fiscal sense, what is the role of the Budget in stimulating economic growth? 220. What impact will any future Budget cuts have on economic growth over the short and medium term? What impact would a cut of 1%, 2%, or 3% have?</p> <p>221. What are the significant long term costs or benefits of running a Budget deficit through an economic downturn?</p> <p>222. How should government spending and taxation change at various stages of economic growth? 223. PWC recently released a report forecasting deficits across state, territory and federal Governments at 138% of GDP in 2049-50: does Treasury have any concerns with this modelling? 224. What has been the longest period in Australian political history of no policy change? 225. What is Treasury's view on modelling that assumes no policy change?</p> <p>226. Given the predictions of weak economic growth, should the government consider increasing the short term deficit?</p> <p>227. Should the government consider removing the concessions and loopholes enjoyed by higher-income earners as part of a long term strategy to return the Budget to surplus?</p> <p>228. In the view of Treasury, which concessions and loopholes should the government prioritise?</p>	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Written	6.3.2015	

AET 229-236	8	Dastyari, Sam	Report into operations of the ABS	<p>With reference to the review conducted by Treasury, for the Treasurer, into the operation of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS):</p> <p>229. Could you confirm that this review has been provided to the Treasurer? 230. What were the principle findings of the review?</p> <p>231. What systemic issues, if any, impact on the effective operation of the ABS?</p> <p>232. How is the ABS effectively aligning its internal culture, people and capabilities with the priorities of the ABS and the needs of its stakeholders?</p> <p>233. Were the ABS policies, process and practices found to be flexible and responsive to stakeholders needs?</p> <p>234. What was the Treasurer's response to the report?</p> <p>235. What actions, if any, has the Treasurer taken in response to the report?</p> <p>236. Are there any issues or concerns that would affect the implementation of any of the recommendations in the report?</p>	Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 237-243	7	Dastyari, Sam	Infrastructure return to Budgets	<p>237. What modelling has Treasury done on the benefits of increased investment in infrastructure on federal government revenues over time?</p> <p>238. What are the short term fiscal effects on federal government revenues from the increased activity?</p> <p>239. What are the longer term fiscal effects on federal government revenues from expanded capacity?</p> <p>240. What modelling has Treasury done on the benefits of increased investment in infrastructure on state government revenues over time?</p> <p>241. What are the short term fiscal effects on state government revenues from the increased activity?</p> <p>242. What are the longer term fiscal effects on state government revenues from expanded capacity?</p> <p>243. What external research or modelling hat has been done on this in an Australian context?</p>	Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 244-249	6	Dastyari, Sam	MYEFO Fiscal Strategy and Outlook	<p>244. What is the Government's fiscal strategy relating to new government spending?</p> <p>245. Will new spending measures be offset by reductions in spending elsewhere within the budget?</p> <p>246. Does the government's fiscal strategy put any caveats on this spending strategy?</p> <p>247. Did the government offset all new spending in MYEFO?</p> <p>248. I note that MYEFO states on page 24 that: "Consistent with its fiscal strategy, the Government has more than offset all of its new spending decisions, other than those taken as part of negotiations with the Senate": was any new spending that wasn't fully offset?</p> <p>249. Is it possible that at every budget update we could have with additional spending that is not offset?</p>	Budget Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 250-255	6	Dastyari, Sam	Borrowing \$100 million per day	<p>Treasurer Hockey often refers to a \$100 million a day figure: HOCKEY – 17 FEBRUARY 2015 “...we are borrowing \$100 million just to pay our daily bills as a government. So, we are collecting \$100 million less tax than we are actually spending every day and that's unsustainable into the future.” HOCKEY – 20 FEBRUARY 2015 “...we cannot continue to borrow \$100 million every day just to pay the day-to-day bills of the Federal Government.”</p> <p>250. How is this \$100 million figure calculated?</p> <p>251. Did the Treasury provide that advice with that figure to the Treasurer's office?</p> <p>252. Is this a figure that Treasury typically uses to monitor the sustainability of government finances?</p> <p>253. Is this figure unsustainable?</p> <p>254. If the figure the Treasurer has been using is calculated on the deficit in 2014-15, what was this figure at PEFO? Budget time? MYEFO?</p> <p>255. Will this figure be lower or higher come Budget time?</p>	Budget Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 256-259	4	Dastyari, Sam	Pension indexation	<p>256. Over what time periods has Treasury conducted modelling on the impact of the proposed change to the indexation of the pension?</p> <p>257. What is the estimated difference in the value of the pension under current arrangements? 258. What is the estimated difference in the value of the pension under the current arrangement and the proposed arrangement in each year over that period: a. Annually b. Monthly c. Weekly 259. What is the total save estimated each year over that period?</p>	Social Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 260-263	4	Dastyari, Sam	Asset recycling	<p>260. In a recent Senate submission, UQ economist John Quiggin wrote: 'When assets are sold for their full value in public ownership, and the proceeds are used entirely to repay debt, public sector net debt is unchanged. The use of any portion of privatisation proceeds to fund current expenditure, tax cuts or non-commercial infrastructure must increase public sector net debt'. Does Treasury agree?</p> <p>261. What impact will the government's asset recycling initiative have for the number of privately owned monopolies in this country?</p> <p>262. What are the 'checks and balances' to ensure that assets sold by the states and territories are in the national interest?</p> <p>263. What are the 'checks and balances' to ensure that any new privately-owned monopolies will be properly regulated?</p>	Industries and Infrastructure Division	Written	6.3.2015	



AET 264-268	5	Dastyari, Sam	Asset recycling in Northern Territory	<p>264. Is the Commonwealth considering providing any infrastructure funding, or any other reward, to the Northern Territory for selling Territory Insurance Office (TIO)?</p> <p>265. Has the Northern Territory government formally applied for funds from the Asset Recycling initiative?</p> <p>266. Could the Northern Territory government be retrospectively considered for funds from the Asset Recycling initiative?</p> <p>267. The Northern Territory Government has announced that it intends to lease the Port of Darwin for 99 years; the Northern Territory Chief Minister has stated that such a lease does not constitute privatisation: would such a lease be eligible under the Asset Recycling Initiative?</p> <p>268. Has the Northern Territory government formally applied for the sale of the Port of Darwin to be considered under the Asset recycling initiative?</p>	Industries and Infrastructure Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 275-287	13	Dastyari, Sam	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	<p>275. The CEFC quarterly report for the December 2014 quarter shows a \$74.5 million 'climate bond' investment: what is this, what will it achieve for clean energy and carbon pollution abatement, and what the expected return will be?</p> <p>276. Have levels of investment met expectations, or have outside influences affected the demand for loans and other support?</p> <p>277. What rates of return are you expecting from your portfolio in the medium term? Have these expectations changed?</p> <p>278. What is in the investment pipeline for the CEFC?</p> <p>279. In a speech last year, the now Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Bob Baldwin, said in a speech at the Clean Energy Week Conference that the government was determined to press on with abolishing the CEFC as the government could not, or cannot, support the CEFC providing "concessional" finance to projects that he termed "too risky for the private sector": is the CEFC is providing concessional finance to projects too risky for the private sector?</p> <p>280. If not, how would you describe what the CEFC is doing?</p> <p>281. I note that the now Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment was contradicted within hours in a speech given at the very same forum by Minister Hunt who said that while it may not have been the Government's preference for the CEFC to continue to operate, the organisation was clearly going to continue to do its work and that given this reality it was good to see the CEFC focusing on developing financing products for energy efficiency projects and also the leasing of solar systems: has the work of the CEFC been in anyway affected by the uncertainty produced by the current Government's abolitionist and contradictory attitudes to the CEFC, noting the abolition bill remains on the notice paper?</p> <p>282. Have you had any update from the government has to their current plans for the CEFC? 283. How much money would the closure of the CEFC save the budget?</p> <p>284. Will there be a cost to the budget from closing the CEFC?</p> <p>285. How will the public policy outcomes and benefits to the economy of provided by the CEFC be delivered if the CEFC is abolished by the Government?</p> <p>286. How effectively does the work of the CEFC – funding innovative projects – link with the objectives of Direct Action, which seeks carbon abatement through funding innovative projects? 287. (All things being equal) what total contribution to Australia's 2020 emissions reduction target will the CEFC make if it is not abolished?</p>	Industries and Infrastructure Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 288	1	Whish-Wilson, Peter	Competition policy review	288. Is the issue of environment and consumer exemption from secondary boycott prohibitions being considered as part of the competition policy review?	Small Business Competition Consumer Policy Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 289-294	6	Whish-Wilson, Peter	Prosecutions and enforceable understandings	<p>For each of the last ten financial years (including the current financial year): 289. How many prosecutions have ASIC attempted?</p> <p>290. What is the monetary value of the alleged misconduct associated with ASIC's prosecution attempts?</p> <p>291. How many of ASIC's prosecutions have been successful?</p> <p>292. What is the monetary value of the misconduct associated with ASIC's successful prosecutions?</p> <p>293. How many enforceable undertakings have ASIC made?</p> <p>294. What is the monetary value associated with the misconduct associated with ASIC's enforceable undertakings?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 295-296	2	Whish-Wilson, Peter	Outstanding determinations	<p>295. What measures have ASIC put in place to ensure that determinations made in favour of consumers by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) are being acted upon?</p> <p>296. Can ASIC provide an update on action taken since the last report by FOS on outstanding determinations made in favour of consumers?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	

AET 297-300	4	Whish-Wilson, Peter	Secondments	<p>297. With respect to inbound secondments, for each of the last ten financial years (including the current financial year) can you provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the identity of the employers of people seconded to ASIC at the time of the secondment;</li> <li>- the number of people seconded to ASIC from each of these employers; and</li> <li>- the nature of the role of people seconded to ASIC, including the identity of the branch, group or division within ASIC to which people were seconded.</li> </ul> <p>298. Has ASIC undertaken any internal reviews of its inbound secondment program since April 2014?</p> <p>299. Has ASIC identified any deficiencies in its handling of potential or actual conflicts of interest arising from its inbound secondment program?</p> <p>300. In respect of allegations that employees on secondment to ASIC from firms that were members of the then Investment and Financial Services Association (IFSA) were working on a project that resulted in a favourable policy determination for members of IFSA, does ASIC stand by the statement made to the 10 April 2014 meeting of the Economics References Committee inquiry into the performance of ASIC that it “completely and unreservedly rejects [these] allegations”?</p>	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 301-304	4	Xenophon, Nick	Wine Grape Growers	<p>I recently met with wine grape growers in the Riverland in South Australia – home to 1045 wine grape growers, representing over 20,679 hectares of vines and producing up to 30 per cent of Australia’s annual crush. The growers I met with are facing crippling below-cost offers for harvest, equating to just 20 cents a bottle of wine. I note last year the ACCC declined to investigate a complaint from the Murray Valley Winegrowers that the big wineries had abused their market power and indulged in predatory pricing.</p> <p>301. Why did the ACCC decline to investigate this complaint?</p> <p>302. Are there any current investigations on foot?</p> <p>303. Is the ACCC concerned about emerging reports that this year’s harvest will see even lower prices for many grape varieties than last year?</p> <p>304. Does the ACCC think it’s possible that some winery companies and large grape buyers are using their market power to distort the wine grape market?</p> <p>a. Has the ACCC received any complaints about the above?</p> <p>b. Is the ACCC currently gathering information or conducting market surveillance in this sector, especially in the Riverland and Sunraysia Districts where many wine grape growers are selling grapes at below the cost of production?</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 305-310	6	Xenophon, Nick	Automotive Manufacturing Industry	<p>305. I refer to recent answers to my questions on notice as a result of the previous Supplementary Budget Estimates. In your response to question 47 you make a statement that ‘decades of government assistance have been unsuccessful in overcoming the market conditions and competitive pressures that face the industry’. As part of your inquiry into Australia’s Automotive Manufacturing Industry, did you provide any guidance as to how government assistance could be best put to save this industry?</p> <p>306. In your responses to questions 48 and 49, which revolved around industry assistance comparative studies across countries, you note the constraints of conducting such studies due to country specific assumptions and qualitative data sets being unavailable. I now refer you back to number one in the terms of reference for the PC Inquiry, which was to ‘examine national and international market and regulatory factors affecting the industry’. Why did you include this in your terms of reference, and then discount the use of these comparisons throughout the report and subsequent Senate Estimates?</p> <p>307. Do you think that an industry assistance comparative study across countries would have yielded a different report in relation to recommendations?</p> <p>308. What evidence did you collate from other countries through the PC Inquiry as to why countries invest in their automotive industries?</p> <p>309. You state in response to Question 55 that you ‘have not evaluated the adequacy or efficacy of existing welfare, training and employment services in the affected regions’, where the automotive job losses will be hardest felt. Do you have plans to commission this research, and do you agree this modelling will be useful and timely?</p> <p>310. Have you commissioned any research as to which industries you envisage ex-automotive industry employees will be re-employed? Are you aware of any funding re-direction as a part of this shift?</p>	Productivity Commission	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 311-313	3	Xenophon, Nick	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)	<p>311. Following on from the questions I placed on notice last estimates, has the ACNC done any modelling or have any data about how much money has been saved in lost revenue through the tax breaks that would have been given to the 6,000 plus entities that have had their charitable status revoked or removed?</p> <p>312. Is the ACNC still receiving the appropriate funding, or is it due to be cut off, given the government’s intention of abolishing the agency?</p> <p>313. There is a significant trend world-wide in establishing agencies such as the ACNC to support and enhance the not-for-profit sector, and the ACNC has provided some information on notice about the work it is doing with these agencies.</p> <p>a. what is the general view overseas about the importance of such agencies? b. what economic benefits can be seen in jurisdictions with such agencies, in terms of the operation of the NFP sector?</p>	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)	Written	6.3.2015	

AET 314-320	7	Xenophon, Nick	Waubra Foundation	<p>In January 2015 the ACNC determined the Waubra Foundation did not meet the requirements for registration as a charity with the subtypes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promoting or protecting human rights, or</li> <li>• advancing education; or</li> <li>• health promotion</li> </ul> <p>In respect of a 'health promotion charity' the ACNC stated that these are 'institutions whose principal activity is to promote the prevention or control of diseases in human beings'. Objective 8 of the Waubra Foundation states the foundation is to: Facilitate the establishment of individual networks of relevant specialties of medical practitioners and other health practitioners to enable the rapid sharing of information and expertise in the diagnosis, management and treatment of patients with symptoms of diseases known as "wind turbine syndrome" and "vibroacoustic disease" as well as "environmental sleep disorder" and other symptoms and health conditions resulting from exposure to infrasound and low frequency noise (ILFN) and vibration, historically called "annoyance" by acoustic engineers and researchers.</p> <p>314. Given Objective 8 of the Waubra Foundation deals with 'environmental sleep disorders' caused by exposure to infrasound, low frequency noise and vibration and the World Health Organisation's acceptance that sleep deprivation does affect human health, can you advise why the ACNC does not accept that the Waubra Foundation is a health promotion charity?</p> <p>315. Can you also advise why in the ACNC's determination in relation to the Waubra Foundation's charity status only the first part of Objective 8 was quoted and the second half that deals with environmental sleep disorders was not?</p> <p>316. Does the ACNC accept that sleep disorders and sleep deprivation are human health issues? 317. Does the ACNC accept that some residents living close to wind farms have experienced sleep deprivation?</p> <p>318. I understand the ACNC has registered the following charities whose work involves sleep disorders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adelaide Institute for Sleep Health Incorporated</li> <li>• Australian Respiratory and Sleep Medicine Institute Limited</li> <li>• Institute for Breathing and Sleep</li> <li>• Monash Lung and Sleep Institute</li> <li>• Nodss – Narcolepsy &amp; Overwhelming Daytime Sleep Society of Australia</li> <li>• Sleep Apnoea Association Incorporated</li> <li>• Sleep Disorders Australia</li> <li>• The Sleep Health Foundation</li> <li>• West Australian Sleep Disorders Research Institute Inc</li> <li>• Whyalla Sleep Apnoea Support Group</li> </ul> <p>Why is environmental (noise induced) sleep disorder which the Waubra Foundation are seeking to prevent being ignored by the ACNC?</p> <p>319. In the view of the ACNC, how does the work of the other charities whose work involves sleep disorders differ from that of the Waubra Foundation? 320. What kinds of activities does the ACNC accept promote the prevention and control of sleep disorders in human beings?</p>	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 321-322	2	Xenophon, Nick	Consumer protections on leases	<p>In February 2014, the then Assistant Treasurer announced that the Federal Government would extend consumer protections to short term and indefinite leases, which are currently excluded from the operation of our national credit laws. The then Assistant Treasurer promised consultations over the next 6 months. Following that announcement, the University of Melbourne published research (available at <a href="http://consumeraction.org.au/summary-of-consumer-leases-and-consumer-protection-regulatory-arbitrage-and-consumer-harm/">http://consumeraction.org.au/summary-of-consumer-leases-and-consumer-protection-regulatory-arbitrage-and-consumer-harm/</a>) that found the distinction between 'consumer leases' and 'credit contracts' in the national credit laws to be artificial, and recommended treating all consumer leases as credit contracts for the purposes of regulation. This recommendation would have the benefit of reducing red tape.</p> <p>321. To my knowledge, Treasury has not yet consulted on consumer leases as promised. When will Treasury consult on the regulation of consumer leases? 322. Will Treasury consider the important findings of the University of Melbourne research as part of its consultations?</p>	Financial System and Services Division	Written	6.3.2015	
AET 323-334	12	Dastyari, Sam	Prudential Standard APS 113 Capital Adequacy: Internal Ratings-based Approach to Credit Risk	<p>323. What does APS113 regulate? 324. When was APS113 introduced? 325. Why was APS113 introduced? 326. What kind of business would be affected by this threshold? 327. Has the level (AU\$1m) been subject to internal APRA review since 2008? 328. Has the level (AU\$1m) been subject to public review or consultation since 2008? 329. Has APRA recommended the level (AU\$1m) to be lifted? 330. Have small business advocates or peak bodies recommended the level (AU\$1m) to be lifted? 331. Has APRA recommended APS113 be indexed to CPI or any other index? 332. Have small business advocates or peak bodies recommended APS113 be indexed to CPI or any other index? 333. Can you please advise how many small business, small business advocates, or peak bodies have contacted APRA to either complain, or recommend changes to the level and indexation of APS113? 334. Have any small business advocates or peak bodies suggested the government increase the AUD\$1 million threshold of APS113 to AUD\$3 million and index to CPI?</p>	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	Written	11.3.2015	

AET 335-347	13	Madigan, John	Portland Wind Energy Project	<p>335. At Senate Estimates on 25 February, I asked whether the CEFC made certain that Portland Wind Energy Project's earlier wind farms had met all conditions of planning permit and approval requirements before providing \$70 million in debt financing to Pacific Hydro. On Behalf of CEFC, Mr Yates said that CEFC expects that companies will make valid representations and noted: 'it is not for us to take those representations without due inquiry, to check the validity of whether those representations are actually true.' Mr Yates also said there was an extensive due diligence process in place where CEFC requires external law opinions from external law counsel to go through and make sure that any representations that the company has made are legitimate because 'you do not want to lend to a project which is in default.' Condition 13 of the Portland Wind Energy Project's incorporated document, "the planning permission" relates to NOISE. The operation of the wind energy facility must comply with the New Zealand Standard "Acoustics – The Assessment and Measurement of Sound from Wind Turbine Generators" (NZ 6808: 1998) the ("New Zealand Standard"), in relation to any dwelling existing or approved (by way of a planning permit or a building permit) at the date of approval of this document, to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning. Please supply the evidence that CEFC obtained to support that condition 13 of the planning permission had been met to the Minister's satisfaction?</p> <p>336. Condition 14 of the Portland Wind Energy Project's planning permission states: Condition 13 does not apply if an agreement has been reached with a specific landowner through which the landowner accepts predicted noise levels or otherwise agrees to implement appropriate acoustic attenuation measures to ensure a reasonable level of acoustic amenity in relation to the indoor habitable areas of any dwelling, and acknowledges that the operation of the wind energy facility may still generate noise in outdoor areas on the land which may from time to time exceed the New Zealand Standard. Condition 14 institutes an agreement between the wind farm operator and a specific landowner that allows the exceedance of the NZ standard and thus the breach of condition 13. However, Section 180 of the planning and Environment Act instructs that: 'An agreement must not require or allow anything to be done which would breach a planning scheme or a permit.' CEFC recognises the importance of Pacific Hydro's compliance obligations. As part of the CEFC's extensive due diligence process, did CEFC observe, obtain and/or retain copies of any agreements that were made as described in Condition 14 - to be certain that agreements which authorise the breach of Condition 13 were properly made, are enforceable and legally valid?</p> <p>337. Legal officers from the Victorian Planning Department have advised that the Responsible authority is required to enter into and sign agreements relating to permit conditions in order for agreements to meet the requirements of the Victorian Planning and Environment Act, 1987. If the agreements referred to in Condition 14 do not have the Responsible authority's signature and thus do not meet the requirements of the Act, it would reasonably follow that the agreements are not legal and should be invalid. Before lending \$70 million to Pacific Hydro, did CEFC and its external law counsel, did CEFC confirm that Condition 14 agreements (authorising the breach of Condition 13) between the operator and landholders were legally valid and entered into and signed by the Responsible authority? Please provide any supporting evidence held by CEFC.</p> <p>338. The inclusion of a condition such as Condition 14 and indeed, the need for Pacific Hydro to have agreements with landowners about exposure to noise which "may from time to time exceed the New Zealand Standard," in the first place suggests that at the time the Portland Wind Energy Project's planning permission was granted Pacific Hydro anticipated, expected or knew that the project could or would 'from time to time' fail to meet its compliance obligations under Condition 13 of the planning consent at specific sites. In the event that the agreements are invalid and Condition 14 is not legally enforceable, how might those circumstances impact on the risk profile of the lending agreement? Is it fair to suggest that the following position should apply? If the project fails to meet its compliance obligations, there is typically a right of termination of the funding requirements under the facilities.</p>	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Written	11.3.2015	
AET 348-349	2	Dastyari, Sam	Competition Review – Effects Test	<p>The draft report of the Competition Policy Review (released 22 September 2014) provides a preliminary view that a so called 'effects test' should be introduced in relation to the misuse of market power.</p> <p>348. What is Treasury's position on the so-called 'effects test' proposed in the draft report of the Competition Policy Review.</p> <p>349. How would the proposed 'effects test' benefit competitors?</p>	Small Business Competition Consumer Policy Division	Written	11.3.2015	
AET 350-353	4	Dastyari, Sam	Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund	<p>This fund was setup by James Hardie, the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government. 350. Given the current restriction limiting the amount available to be drawn down to the current value of the insurance policies benefiting the AICF was \$214.3 million, as at 31 March 2014, has the federal government been approached by the NSW government seeking agreement to remove the restriction on the loan facility to allow the Fund access to \$320 million?</p> <p>351. If so, has the Abbott Government agreed to lift the restriction? When?</p> <p>352. If not, why not?</p> <p>353. What is the Abbott Government doing to ensure that asbestos victims receive their full compensation damages awards from James Hardie?</p>	Financial System and Services Division	Written	11.3.2015	
AET 354-356	3	Carr, Kim	R&D Tax Incentives	<p>354. Did Treasury undertake any modelling on the impacts of the amendment moved by the Palmer United Party to the Tax Laws Amendment (R&amp;D) Bill 2013? If so, when was this modelling conducted, who was consulted and what were the results?</p> <p>355. How many companies will be directly impacted by the introduction of a \$100m cap? How many of these companies are the same as those firms affected by the original measure or a \$20 billion threshold?</p> <p>356. Did Treasury consult AusIndustry on whether there were any Advance Findings that may be affected by the proposed changes to the R&amp;D Tax Incentive? If so, how many of the firms affected by this measure have sought advance confirmation from AusIndustry for R&amp;D expenditure in future years?</p>	Small Business Tax Division	Written	11.3.2015	

AET 357-364	8	Siewert, Rachel	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)	<p>357. Treasury previously did some work around the potential to improve productivity in the charities and not-for-profit sector. Is this work continuing and if so what can you tell us about its findings?</p> <p>358. Please clarify which Minister holds responsibility for the ACNC and why. 359. What role does the ACNC hold in countering the funding of terrorism?</p> <p>360. Please provide an update on progress in regards to the implementation of the charity passport. 361. Has the ACNC been consulted by DSS regarding plans for the National Centre for Excellence or for future regulatory arrangements of the sector?</p> <p>362. Is any legislation regarding the replacement of the ACNC being drafted?</p> <p>363. If so, when will charities have an opportunity to see the exposure draft?</p> <p>364. What impact is the ongoing uncertainty about the future of the ACNC having on the charities sector, particularly the capacity to reduce red tape by having other regulators share information?</p>	Small Business Tax Division	Written	11.3.2015	
AET 365-371	7	Wong, Penny	Intergenerational Report - Contracts	<p>365. How much has Treasury spent on contracts relating to (a) the production of the IGR or (b) the advertising of the IGR?</p> <p>366. Who did Treasury engage with these contracts?</p> <p>367. When did they engage them?</p> <p>368. For how long?</p> <p>369. How much per contract?</p> <p>370. What is the total budget for advertising the IGR?</p> <p>371. What forms of advertising will be included in the IGR campaign?</p>	Financial and Facilities Management Division	Written	16.3.15	
AET 372-379	8	Wong, Penny	Intergenerational Report	<p>372. Can Treasury confirm the unemployment rate assumptions for all the scenarios outlined in the 2015 IGR?</p> <p>373. Can Treasury confirm that all the scenarios ("previous", "currently legislated", "proposed") have the same unemployment rate assumption?</p> <p>374. Can Treasury confirm that all the scenarios ("previous", "currently legislated", "proposed") assume a 5% rate of unemployment consistent with the NAIRU?</p> <p>375. Can Treasury outline the policy decisions made by this government that are included in the 'previous policy' scenario outlined in the IGR?</p> <p>376. Was Treasury instructed to provide draft IGR materials on the 'previous policy' scenario by the Treasurer or the Treasurer's office? 377. Was Treasury instructed on what countries to include in Chart 2.5 (page 53) of the IGR? If so, when, by whom?</p> <p>378. Has such a chart as at Chart 2.5 (page 53) with various Australian scenarios at a future point in time been compared in the same chart alongside other nations at the current time, ever been compiled and presented in a Budget document in the last 20 years? If so, when?</p> <p>379. Have former IGRs included 'previous policy', 'currently legislated' and 'proposed' scenarios? If not, why not?</p>	Budget Policy Division	Written	16.3.15	
AET 380-382	3	Wong, Penny	Intergenerational Report	<p>380. When is the Budget projected to get to a surplus (UCB terms) of 1 per cent of GDP?</p> <p>381. How does that compare with the fiscal strategy outlined in the 2014-15 MYEFO?</p> <p>382. How does it compare with the Government's 2013 pre-election promise of achieving a surplus of 1 per cent of GDP within a decade?</p>	Budget Policy Division	Written	16.3.15	
AET 383-384	2	Wong, Penny	Intergenerational Report - Terms of Trade	<p>383. Terms of trade were predicted to fall in MYEFO 2014-15 by 13.5 per cent in 2014-15 – what is the current status of the terms of trade?</p> <p>384. Why is the availability of foreign capital important for the Australian economy?</p>	Macroeconomic Conditions Division	Written	16.3.15	
AET 385-386	2	Wong, Penny	Government Borrowing	<p>385. How is the Treasurer's \$100 million figure in relation to government borrowing arrived at? Did the Treasury provide that advice with that figure to the Treasurer's office?</p> <p>386. Will this figure be lower or higher at Budget time?</p>	Budget Policy Division	Written	16.3.15	
AET 387-394	8	Wong, Penny	Superannuation Guarantee	<p>Can the Department provide details for the past 5 financial years (including the current year) of:</p> <p>387. Number of complaints received about employers not paying superannuation guarantee payments</p> <p>388. The alleged outstanding value of SG relating to these complaints</p> <p>389. The number of these complaints the ATO has investigated</p> <p>390. The average time taken to investigate 391. The outcomes of those investigations</p> <p>392. The number of successful recoveries as a result of ATO action</p> <p>393. The value of successful recoveries as a result of ATO action</p> <p>394. The staffing levels of the unit within the ATO that investigates these complaints</p>	Australian Taxation Office	Written	16.3.15	

AET 395-398	4	Wong, Penny	Assetless Administration Fund	395. What is the total funding for the Assetless Administration Fund for 2014-15 and over the forward estimates period? 396. How much of this is Committed Funding for 2014-15 and over the forward estimates period? 397. How much is Contracted Funding for 2014-15 and over the forward estimates period? 398. How much is Uncommitted Funding for 2014-15 and over the forward estimates period?	Australian Securities and Investment Commission	Written	16.3.15	
AET 399-405	7	Wong, Penny	Small Business - discretionary grant program	Can the following details be provided for each discretionary grant program in the Minister's portfolio relating to Small Business: 399. Name of the discretionary grant program; 400. Total funding on a year-by-year basis over the current forward estimate; 401. Committed funding on a year-by-year basis over the current forward estimates; 402. Contracted funding on a year-by-year basis over the current forward estimates; 403. Uncommitted funding on a year-by-year basis over the current forward estimates; 404. When the current round of funding is scheduled to cease; and 405. How many rounds of funding are scheduled after the end of the current round.	Financial and Facilities Management Division	Written	16.3.15	
AET 406	1	Wong, Penny	Underlying cash balance projected to 2024-25 - MYEFO	406. Can the Department provide the dollar figures for the data that is behind Chart 1.1. (and 3.2) in the 2014-15 MYEFO which can be found at: <a href="http://www.budget.gov.au/2014-15/content/myefo/html/chart_data.htm">http://www.budget.gov.au/2014-15/content/myefo/html/chart_data.htm</a> These figures should be for both the 2014-15 Budget and 2014-15 MYEFO lines in that table.	Budget Policy Division	Written, transferrred from Finance	18.3.15	
AET 407	1	Sterle, Glenn	Tax Law Application to Oceanic Discoverer and Caledonian Sky	407. How does Australian tax law apply to (i) the Oceanic Discoverer and (ii) Caledonian Sky?	Corporate and International Tax Division	Written, transferrred from Infrastructure	24.3.15	
AET 408	1	Edwards, Sean	cost of estimates attendance	CHAIR: Geoscience Australia, which was due to appear at 10.30 to 11.00 tonight, will not be appearing. They will not be called. Any questions can be put on notice. As part of the current section, I have just given ACNC the good news that they are not going to be called. They are heading home. Any questions will be put on notice. I have flagged with them, of course, that my question to them will be: how much is their fully absorbed cost of being here today not to appear? That will be my question, on notice, just to highlight the dysfunction of the way in which these hearings are being run.	ACNC	Spoken	26.2.2015	71-72
AET 409	1	Ketter, Chris	cut in rate of company tax	Senator KETTER: I will move to the issue of company tax. There was an election commitment from the government to big business that there would be a cut in the rate of company tax. Are you able to advise us why the government has broken that promise? Senator Ronaldson: I do not think this officer can answer that. I will take that wider question on notice. Senator KETTER: The government is proceeding with a cut to small business tax. Are you able to advise us how that tax cut will be funded and which small businesses it will apply to? Will there be a particular turnover threshold there? Mr Heferen: The Treasurer is still working through the decision of the tax cut for small business. Senator KETTER: How far away are we from some development? Senator Ronaldson: That will be a matter for the Treasurer. Senator KETTER: Will the government be committing to some form of belated consultation before any decision is made on this matter? Senator Ronaldson: That is not a question for the officer. Obviously that is a question for me. I am not entirely sure about the consultation, but I am happy to take that on notice.	Corporate and International Tax Division	Spoken	26.2.2015	72
AET 410	1	Dastyari, Sam	Tax White Paper sign off	Senator DASTYARI: Are you saying that you are not the person that is signing off on the tax white paper? Mr Hickey: Yes, that is correct. Senator DASTYARI: Are you taking on notice who the people on the process are? Mr Hickey: Yes.	Tax White Paper Task Force	Spoken	25.2.2015	79-80
	404							

NOTE: Due to Treasury's internal process of question number allocation there is a gap for QONs 269-274.