

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency:** Treasury

**Question:** AET 30

**Topic:** Advice on compensation options for an increase to the GST

**Reference:** Hansard page no. 27 - 10 February 2016

**Senator:** Wong, Penny

**Question:**

**Senator WONG:** Not to date? Has the government been provided with options, or has Treasury provided advice as to compensation options, for an increase in the GST or an extension to the base?

**Senator Cormann:** You are going into matters that are part of the deliberations of cabinet. You are going very much to content issues here. We will take that on notice to see to what extent we will be able to assist you.

**Senator WONG:** I am not going to ask questions about the content. I am just asking whether you have provided advice and when you provided it.

**Senator Cormann:** It is very hard for you to not ask about content advice due to the way that you are framing the question, but I will take the question on notice and I will consult with the Treasurer to see how we might be able to assist you.

**Senator WONG:** The Prime Minister has made it clear that it would have to be fair. These are his public statements, which were in the House of Representatives. I do not know whether he used the word 'compensated' or 'assisted'. I am simply asking: when was work done on options for such assistance and when was it provided to government?

**Senator Cormann:** We will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Treasury commenced modelling in relation to ongoing discussions with the States and Territories. The communiqué for the August Council of Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) Tax Reform Workshop indicated that the Commonwealth would further develop the options discussed by Treasurers at that workshop, in consultation with the states and territories, and report back at subsequent CFFR meetings.