

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Question No: 124

Topic: Enforcement/Compliance Priorities

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

How did the ACCC prioritise their compliance and enforcement agenda for this budget year? Was the Minister involved in choosing these priorities? Did he sign off on them? On what date? Did these priorities go to Cabinet or any higher Government body?

Answer:

The ACCC prioritises its compliance and enforcement activities in line with the ACCC Compliance and Enforcement Policy. The Policy identifies current priority areas and lists the priority factors to be taken into account in deciding whether to pursue particular issues or matters.

The ACCC's Compliance and Enforcement Policy is updated annually in February and is developed through a process referred to as the strategic review. The review identifies areas of priority for the ACCC's enforcement and compliance work and ensures that resources are appropriately allocated to higher priority matters. To determine the relevant priorities, an environmental scan is conducted. This involves gathering and reviewing information from the wide variety of sources including: key stakeholders; Infocentre contacts; international counterparts; and the parliamentary landscape is considered.

At the review, Commissioners and senior managers have an opportunity to discuss and formulate the ACCC's priorities for the following year. The Commission approves the updated policy.

The Minister, Cabinet or any other Government body are not involved in choosing these priorities. As identified above, the priority areas are determined through consultation with senior managers and subsequently approved by the ACCC Commission.