

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: BET - 19

Topic: budget.gov.au website

Reference: Hansard page no. 73 - 01 June 2015

Senator: Canavan, Matthew

Question:

BET – 19 Senator CANAVAN: I just want to make a complaint. It is a complaint against my own government about the budget.gov.au website. There is some animation or something there. I go to it all the time: all I want to get are the documents, and now I have to click on another page to get to the documents first. Maybe you could have it up for budget night, but I think there are people as sad as me, still going to budget.gov.au two or three weeks after the big night.

CHAIR: It is a very good site.

Senator CANAVAN: It is a very good site, yes. But sometimes I just want to get a budget paper, and now I have to click more times. It is very frustrating.

A more serious complaint, after I have said that: will Treasury ever put Excel spreadsheets of the tables or budgets up on the website at all? Has that been discussed? I know that you have for a lot of other reports but not for the budget itself.

Mr Ray: I will need to take that on notice. The budget tables do not come to us in Excel spreadsheets; they come out of the Central Budget Management System.

Senator CANAVAN: Okay.

Mr Ray: But we do publish, for example, all of the plot points in the charts and that sort of stuff. They are all available.

Senator CANAVAN: Where are they? On the budget website?

Mr Ray: On the budget website.

Answer:

BET – 19 Treasury converted a number of tables from Budget Paper 1 into a Microsoft Excel readable format which were made available on data.gov.au. The tables loaded onto the site were:

- *Budget Paper 1: Appendix A1 - Estimates of expenses by function and sub -function*
- *Budget Paper 1: Overview - Appendix C Major Initiatives*
- *Budget Paper 1: Overview - Appendix D Major Savings*
- *Budget Paper 1: Statement 3 - Table 7: Reconciliation of underlying cash balance estimates*
- *Budget Paper 1: Statement 4 - Table 1: Australian Government general government receipts*
- *Budget Paper 1: Statement 4 - Table 7: Australian Government general government (cash) receipts*
- *Budget Paper 1: Statement 4 - Table 10: Reconciliation of 2015 -16 general government (accrual) revenue*
- *Budget Paper 1: Statement 4 - Supplementary table 3: Australian Government (accrual) revenue*

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

- *Budget Paper 1: Statement 10 - Table 1: Australian Government general government sector receipts, payments, net Future Fund earnings and underlying cash balance*
- *Budget Paper 1: Statement 10 - Table 4: Australian Government general government sector taxation receipts, non-taxation receipts and total receipts*
- *Budget Paper 1: Statement 10 - Table 5: Australian Government general government sector net debt and net interest payments*

Treasury are exploring options to increase the number of tables available for viewing using Microsoft Excel for future releases of budget information.

The Department of Finance also released the following tables from Budget Paper 4:

- *Budget Paper 4 Table 1.1 – Agency Resourcing*
- *Budget Paper 4 Table 1.2 – Special Appropriations*
- *Budget Paper 4 Table 1.3 – Special Accounts*
- *Budget Paper 4 Table 2.2 – Staffing Tables*
- *Budget Paper 4 Table 3.1 – Departmental Expenses*
- *Budget Paper 4 Table 3.2 – Net Capital Investment*

The direct link for budget tables on data.gov.au is:

<http://data.gov.au/dataset/budget-2015-16-tables-and-data>