

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: ASIC

Question: BET 530-535

Topic: Sale of Registry

Reference: written - 19 June 2015

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

- 530. The ASIC annual report for 2014 was that revenue to ASIC was in excess of \$670 million
- 531. What figure does the Minister see as appropriate price to compensate for this revenue loss?
- 532. The ASIC Registry currently operates effectively as a monopoly. Does the Government have an ownership structure in mind as part of the sale?
- 533. Is the Government proposing a sale, a lease arrangement or some other mechanism?
- 534. Does the Minister anticipate regulatory change to establish oversight of pricing once the Registry is privatised?
- 535. Does the Minister anticipate placing requirements in the tender to provide employment security for current employees at the ASIC registry?

Answer:

530. ASIC raises approximately \$720 million annually in revenue for the Commonwealth, which covers revenue collected in relation to both ASIC's registry and regulatory functions.

531. The government has not made any decision to sell the ASIC Registry. As part of the 2015-16 Budget, the government announced that a competitive tender process would be undertaken to test the appetite of the private sector to operate and upgrade the Registry. The government has recently commenced a Registration of Interest (ROI) Phase asking parties with an interest in participating in the competitive tender process to formally register their interest. Information publically disseminated in relation to the ROI Phase identifies that the opportunity is focussed on unlocking the operational and growth opportunities within the Registry, with the private sector operator continuing to collect tax revenue on behalf of the Commonwealth.

532. The ownership structure is still to be determined but anticipates the private operator operating and upgrading the ASIC Registry over a long-term period.

533. The ownership structure is still to be determined but anticipates the private operator operating and upgrading the ASIC Registry over a long-term period.

534. The operation of the ASIC Registry will continue to be subject to oversight by the government, and any future private operator will be subject to a range of requirements to ensure accountability of customer service, cost and privacy.

535. The government is committed to ensuring that ASIC employees are treated in a fair manner, including through the preservation of accrued entitlements. The government has made it clear that the choice of a private sector operator for the ASIC Registry will take into

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

account the government's strong preference for the Registry to maintain its existing operations in Traralgon, Victoria.