

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Budget Policy Division

Question No: 179

Topic: Budget Measure 17/18 - Housing Package for Western Sydney

Reference: Written

Senator: Cameron, Doug

Question:

1. Has Treasury had any input into the Housing Package for Western Sydney which was announced in the Budget as part of the Western Sydney City Deal? If so, what has been the scope of Treasury's input?
2. The Fact sheet for this measure states: "The amount of funding provided will depend on the reform ambitions of the NSW and local governments." Has Treasury developed any metrics around "reform ambitions" against which the level of incentive payments can be determined?
3. Will this measure reduce the cost of new housing and if so, how will the measure ensure that the reduced cost of new housing is passed on to homebuyers?

Answer:

1. The Housing Package for Western Sydney forms part of the Government's Reducing Pressure on Housing Affordability Plan announced in the 2017 Budget. The plan was developed through an interdepartmental committee that included the Treasury as part of the Budget process.
2. The amount of funding and the types of reforms that will be supported through the Housing Package for Western Sydney will form part of negotiations with the NSW and local governments on the Western Sydney City Deal.
3. This measure incentivises planning and zoning reform across eight local government areas facing strong population growth and housing affordability pressures. The types of reforms are the subject of negotiation with the NSW and local governments under the Western Sydney City Deal.