

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Small Business and Consumer Policy Division

Question No: 260

Topic: Paper Bills

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

In a speech to the House responding to a private member's motion by the Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs Tim Hammond, Jason Falinski (Member for Mackellar) indicated that the Minister for Small Business had informed him that the Minister had tasked Treasury with reviewing regulatory arrangements around fees for paper bills with the view to identifying scope for regulatory reform.

- a) When did the Treasury receive the request from the Minister to explore this issue?
- b) What is the nature of Treasury's work on this issue?
- c) What resources – human and financial – is Treasury devoting to this work?
- d) What is the due date nominated by the Minister or his office by which Treasury must report on their work?
- e) What consultation has Treasury or the Minister or the Minister's office conducted or plans to conduct in relation to this issue?
- f) Has Treasury briefed the Minister or the Minister's office on this issue? If so, when, and what was the nature of the briefing? Can a copy be provided?
- g) Does Treasury intend to take this issue to state and territory ministers through the COAG or CAANZ processes?

Answer:

- a) Treasury received a request from the office of the Minister for Small Business on 17 March 2017.
- b) Treasury is reviewing the law, identifying if current laws cover the issue and considering if a response (regulatory or otherwise) may be warranted.
- c) Treasury is utilising staff and resources on a business as usual basis.
- d) Treasury will keep the Minister informed of progress.
- e) Treasury met with the Executive Director of the Keep Me Posted campaign on 29 May 2017.

The Minister for Small Business met with Keep Me Posted on 23 March 2017.

The Minister's staff met with Keep Me Posted on 14 September 2016 and 31 May 2017.

- f) Yes. 30 June 2017. No.
- g) Treasury has raised the issue at CAANZ.