

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: ACCC**

**Question: SBT 818-827**

**Topic: Red tape reduction**

**Reference: written - 30 October 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

818. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
819. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
820. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
821. How have they been recruited?
822. What process was used for their appointment?
823. What is the total cost of this unit?
824. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
825. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
826. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
827. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

**Answer:**

818. Numerous staff from across all areas of ACCC/AER have been involved in:
- identifying and progressing opportunities to reduce red tape
  - undertaking the stocktake of regulation and costing thereof
  - calculating the change in red tape costs due to regulations being removed/amended/added.
819. The ACCC/AER has identified and progressed various reforms that have and will contribute to the red tape reduction target. Because we administer legislation that sits within various portfolios, we are working with policy departments such as Treasury and the Department of Communications to progress reforms and to ensure the savings generated are recorded by the relevant department/agency.
820. Refer to response to SBT 818 above.
821. No recruitment has occurred because the staff members identified in SBT 818 are existing staff.
822. These staff were already involved in undertaking 'across' agency work.
823. Refer to response to SBT 818 above.
824. As noted above, the relevant staff members are continuing to work on other projects and salaries therefore only partly apply to work on deregulation issues.
825. No.

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

826. All SES at the ACCC are required to have a Baseline Security Clearance; all other ACCC employees only obtain a clearance if it is required for their position to have access to information classified PROTECTED and above. The two EL2 staff have not been required to obtain a security clearance for this work.
827. Refer to response to SBT 818 as above.