

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: Treasury**

**Question: SBT 95-102**

**Topic: Reviews**

**Reference: Written - 30 October 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

95. How many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
- a) the date they were ordered
  - b) the date they commenced
  - c) the minister responsible
  - d) the department responsible
  - e) the nature of the review
  - f) their terms of reference
  - g) the scope of the review
  - h) Who is conducting the review
  - i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
  - j) the expected report date
  - k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs
  - l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
96. For any review commenced or ordered since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
- a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
  - b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
  - c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
  - d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
  - e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
  - f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
  - g) If yes, for each, who selected them
  - h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
    - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
    - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
    - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
    - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
    - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

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97. Which reviews are on-going?  
a) Please list them.  
b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
98. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
99. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.
100. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
101. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
102. What reviews are planned?  
a) When will each planned review be commenced?  
b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?  
c) When will government respond to each review?  
d) Will the government release each review?  
i. If so, when? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

95.

Review of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

- a.-b. 9 October 2014
- c. the Treasurer
- d. the Treasury
- e. A review of the ABS's capability to undertake its core responsibility to produce credible economic statistics.
- f. The terms of reference for the review were to:
- examine whether systemic issues, including infrastructure, budgetary, or legislative constraints, need to be addressed to ensure the ABS can produce credible economic statistics;
  - assess how effectively the ABS is aligning its internal culture, people and capabilities, and organisational structure with key priorities and the needs of stakeholders; and
  - examine whether the policies, processes and practices of the ABS enable it to be sufficiently flexible and responsive to its stakeholders' needs.
- g. as above.
- h. The Secretary to the Treasury
- i. The review secretariat comprised 4 SES officers, 1 EL2, 1 APS6 and 1 APS5.
- j. 21 December 2014
- k. The costs of staffing the secretariat were absorbed by the agencies that provided the staff.

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1. No.
96. Review of the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- a. Dennis Trewin - Former Australian Statistician  
Michael Vertigan - Former Secretary of the Department of the Treasury and Finance in both Victoria and Tasmania  
Tracey Horton - Non-Executive Director for SKILLED Group, Navitas Limited and Automotive Holdings Group and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WA)
- b. not applicable.
- c. Dennis Trewin - Daily sitting fee of \$1,500  
Michael Vertigan - Daily sitting fee of \$1,500  
Tracey Horton - Daily sitting fee of \$1,500  
Anthony Cole - APSC member from Sydney - flights to attend ABS Review Panel Meeting in Canberra - \$232.22
- d. Advisory panel to the Secretary of the Treasury
- e. No.
- f. No contact.
- g. Secretary to the Treasury
- h. No.
97. a. Extension to terms of reference and reporting date of existing review:  
Post-Implementation Review of Division 7A of Part III of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936.
- b. \$15,930.64  
Debt and Equity Tax Rules
- b. \$51,981.60  
Thin Capitalisation Arm's Length Debt Test
- b. \$1,515.00  
Competition Policy Review
- b. \$2.03 million
98. Nil.
99. Review of the Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Review of Tax Impediment Facing Small Business

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Taxation of Financial Arrangements (TOFA) Scoping Study

100. Review of the ABS on 21 November 2014.  
Review of Tax Impediment Facing Small Business on 31 August 2014.
101. For the Government to determine.
102. Nil.