

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Market and Competition Policy Division

Question No: 477

Topic: Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act 2015

Reference: Written (19 October 2016)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

- 1) Has Treasury conducted any assessment, and participated in any discussions with officers of other Australian Government departments or agencies in relation to the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act 2015?
- 2) Have any other Government officers advised of their view of whether the legislation passes the public benefit test?
- 3) The Productivity Commission draft report on Regulation in Australian Agriculture recommended the legislation be repealed because it did not satisfy the public benefit test.
- 4) Is it Treasury's opinion that this legislation be referred to the National Competition Commission for advice on the authorisations and the anti-competitive provisions of the amendments passed by the Queensland Parliament?
- 5) Has Treasury made any recommendations to the Treasurer on this issue?
- 6) Do Treasury have any concerns about uniform national competition policy arising from this Queensland legislation?

Answer:

1. The Treasury has discussed the Act with other Australian Government departments and agencies.
2. No.
3. No response required.
4. Treasury's opinion on this matter is set out in advice to the Treasurer.
5. The Treasury has provided advice to the Treasurer in relation to this matter.
6. The intergovernmental Conduct Code Agreement provides mechanisms for exceptions from the competition laws.