

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16**

Finance Portfolio  
20 October 2015

**Department/Agency:** Australian Electoral Commission  
**Outcome/Program:** General  
**Topic:** Section 315 issues and compliance actions

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question reference number:** F11

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 48-49, 20 October 2015

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 4 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator LUDWIG:** Just going back to the issue I was talking to you about in respect of those section 315 issues and your compliance actions, published on your website, do you do a review of those? I was looking back, and there was one in Queensland, if I remember correctly. It was Altum Pty Ltd ATF Altum Property Trust, March 2014. It was where the entity had significant underreported total receipts and payments in its 2012-13 annual return and failed to correctly disclose several other reportable amounts, according to the AEC review. The total receipts were underreported by it looks like \$1,867,000-odd, and the total amount of payments were underreported by just short of \$2 million. Total debts were also incorrectly reported due to a typing error that added an extra zero to the figure, which had inadvertently increased the figure by a factor of 10. Do you recall that?

**Mr Rogers:** I do not. I can take that on notice

...

**Senator LUDWIG:** I was just curious as to where that review had got up to and what actions, if any, had been taken, because that looks like it might have been within the three-year period.

**Mr Rogers:** I am happy to take that on notice ...

**Answer:**

The Commission undertook a section 316(2A) compliance review of Altum Pty Ltd ATF Altum Property Trust for the 2012–13 financial year in early 2014. Pursuant to this review, the Commission issued a Compliance Review Report to the financial controller of the Entity on 14 March 2014 recommending several amendments to the Entity's Associated Entity Disclosure Return for the 2012–13 financial year. A Request for Amendment consistent with those recommendations was lodged by the Entity with the Commission on 19 March 2014. As the Entity has now disclosed this, no further action has been taken by the Commission.

The amendments to the Entity's Associated Entity Disclosure Return for the 2012-13 financial year included:

- (a) an increased amount of reported total receipts from \$1,099,995 to \$2,967,668
- (b) increases in two previously reported receipts which individually exceeded \$12,100 for the year, and the reporting of one additional individual receipt in the amount of \$1,901,106
- (c) an increased amount of reported total payments from \$104,658 to \$3,017,781
- (d) a decrease in reported total debts from \$100,794,170 to \$10,204,901
- (e) a decrease in one previously reported debt which individually exceeded \$12,100 for the year, and the reporting of one additional individual debt in the amount of \$8,240,487.