

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

10 – 11 February 2010

**Question: aet 85**

**Topic: Public Release of the Henry Tax Review**

**Hansard Page: E131 (10/02/2010)**

**Senator JOYCE asked:**

**Senator JOYCE**—How long would I be waiting for that?

**Senator Sherry**—We are not going to speculate.

**Senator JOYCE**—You are not going to speculate on when you are going to release this report?

**Senator Sherry**—No, I am not going to speculate on the contents, outcomes—

**Senator JOYCE**—Are you going to release it this year?

**Senator Sherry**—I would have to check the public record of the Treasurer, but in the earlier part of this year. That is not a direct quote but certainly I think that it is the earlier part of this year.

**Senator JOYCE**—That is before April?

**Senator Sherry**—It stands as I have said. I do not have anything else to add.

**Senator JOYCE**—When does the earlier part of this year become the middle of this year?

**Senator Sherry**—I still feel in the earlier part of this year at the moment, I have to say, but I am not aware of a definition of what is the earlier part of this year other than I sense at the moment that we are still in the earlier part of this year. So it will be released in the earlier part of this year.

**Senator JOYCE**—Not in the middle of this year but the earlier part of this year?

**Senator Sherry**—I think we could probably get into a fairly esoteric discussion here about when is the middle of the year. I think we could reasonably conclude that the middle of the year would be around June-July. So I think that we could reasonably conclude that it will be before June. I think that that would be a reasonable conclusion.

**Senator JOYCE**—So May is the earlier part of this year?

**Senator Sherry**—I am not aware that there are published definitions of the earlier part of the year or the middle of the year. We could debate this for some time, I suspect, Senator Joyce. As I have said, the Treasurer has said the earlier part of this year—and that is not a direct quote.

**Senator JOYCE**—I wondered whether the speculation about the earlier part of this year was that it might not be as concise as what is in the Henry tax review.

**Senator Sherry**—That is as definitive—

**Senator JOYCE**—It seems that answering what is the earlier part of this year is a far harder question than answering a question about where the leaks came from.

**Senator Sherry**—I am more than happy, Senator Joyce, to take on notice for the Treasurer a definitional response to what is the earlier part of the year.

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**Senator JOYCE**—How many pages in the Henry tax review?

**Senator BUSHBY**—We will have that by estimates in June.

**Senator Sherry**—Are estimates scheduled for May or June this year?

**Senator BUSHBY**—Late May and June.

**Senator Sherry**—So coming up to the middle of the year.

**Senator BUSHBY**—We get the answers to that question a week before.

**Senator Sherry**—Anyway, I will take it on notice.

**Senator JOYCE**—How many pages in the Henry tax review?

**Senator Sherry**—The exact words from the Treasurer's press release are to release it in 'early 2010', and I would certainly argue it is early in 2010 still. We are still in that phase of 'early'.

**Answer:**

On 14 March 2010, the Treasurer stated that the review will be released by the 2010-11 Budget. The 2010-11 Budget will be delivered on 11 May 2010.