

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 135

Topic: Company Tax Paid by the Mining Sector

Hansard Page: E119 (03/06/2010)

Senator ABETZ asked:

Senator ABETZ—... Moving on, do you have any analysis of the total amount of company tax paid by the mining sector for the year 2008-09? I was told I would find the royalties in government finance statistics. Would that be the same place where I would find that analysis by the ABS?

Mr Ewing—No, it would not be.

Senator ABETZ—Where should I be looking, if at all?

Mr Ewing—I would have to take that on notice, but I suspect in the distribution of income accounts. But I am not sure they are broken down by industry. It would have the amount of tax paid in total within the economy, but I would have to look into whether it is broken down by industry. I could not guarantee that.

Senator ABETZ—If you could provide it to me in any event, but if it is not broken down, you must add, I would assume, all the various industry components to give you the total figure. Is that a fair assumption, if it is only a total figure?

Mr Ewing—Unless it is collected from an administrative source like the tax office's total tax. It may or may not be. I would have to take it on notice and let you know whether we can break it down by industry.

Senator ABETZ—I was going to ask if you could disaggregate the figure and advise me as to what the mining component was—that would be very helpful. Trying my luck even further, if you could try to differentiate between the oil and gas sector and the mineral sector, that would be of substantial benefit to me. That is the end of my questions, thank you very much.

Answer:

The ABS does not publish the total amount of tax paid by the mining industry. The income accounts of the national accounts record company tax paid by institutional sector, not by industry. In the case of the mining industry, the taxes are included with those of all companies in the relevant institutional sector, private non-financial corporations.

For royalties, the same applies. The income accounts of the national accounts show flows of rent on natural assets between sectors (so there are statistics showing total

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amounts paid by private non-financial corporations and received by general government), but there are no data showing amounts paid by any specific industry.

Royalties income is collected as part of the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) dataset. The ABS does not collect any breakdowns by royalty type, so is not able to identify royalty income from mining.

Taxation revenue (including Company tax) is collected by the ABS as an aggregate in the GFS dataset. There is no breakdown by industry.