

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: MYEFO/PEFO

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F5

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 21, 25 February 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: In relation to the spending growth documents, who directed you to use the five years to 2012-13 as the basis of assessment of spending growth? Was that a decision of government?

Mr Tune : I cannot recall.

Senator WONG: Did you independently determine to use five years going back to 2008-09?

Mr Tune: As I said, I cannot recall. I can check back for you if you like, take it on notice.

Senator WONG: It is a pretty important point. Was this a government policy or was this a Treasury and Finance decision?

Mr Tune: As I said, I will take it on notice. I cannot recall. I do not think there was any direction.

Answer:

The Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Outlook is a Government document. The text referred to is drafted by the Treasury. The Treasury confirmed in response to this question in the Economic Legislation Committee hearing on Wednesday, 26 February 2014, that the choice of the five years to 2012-13 as the basis of assessment of spending growth was a decision of government (Hansard, ELC Committee, Page 78, 26 February 2014 refers).