

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 131

Topic: Special Tax Zones

Asked By: Senator MACDONALD

Type of Question: RRA&T 95

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 4

Senator IAN MACDONALD: I would like to hear from you in person, but we have very limited time. Thank you, Mr Dickson, for that. I just want to go through a couple of other things. As a regional department, are you able to get for me the tax statistics in relation to the zone tax? For example, I would like to know how many people are in the special zone A and zone B, that is, how many access it and what the cost to the revenue is. You would normally tell me to go to Treasury and ask the question, but because this is very much a regional program and very much a northern program I am wondering whether you might have access to those figures.

Ms Beauchamp: We do not have automatic access to those figures. We would have to take that on notice and refer them to the Australian Taxation Office.

Answer:

The Department of the Treasury has advised that it is not possible to separate the revenue cost of the zone tax offset from the overseas forces tax offsets, as all are claimed and reported under the one category on tax returns. Nor, for the same reason, is it possible to determine the number of taxpayers in, or the cost to revenue of the zone tax offset for, ordinary zones A and B areas and the special areas in zones A and B.

The response to Parliamentary Question on Notice 783, tabled on 9 February 2012, provided information on the estimated total cost to revenue of the offsets and the number of claims under the zone and overseas forces tax offset category.

Zone Tax Offset	2008-09	2009-10
Number of claims	583,533	584,410
Estimated total cost to revenue (\$m)	229	233

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Estimates of the cost of the zone and overseas forces tax offsets in 2010-11 and later years are also provided in the 2011 *Tax Expenditures Statement*. The combined revenue cost of these offsets is estimated at \$230m for 2010-11, \$235m for 2011-12 and \$240m for 2012-13.

Attachment A provides a list of locations within tax zones A and B and other special areas, where persons are potentially eligible for special tax zone offsets.

Attachment A

Locations within Tax Zones

Zone A locations

Western Australia	Northern Territory	Queensland
Bidyadanga (Lagrange) Broome* Carnarvon Dampier Derby Goldsworthy Karratha Marble Bar Newman* Pannawonica Paraburdoo Port Hedland* Roebourne Shay Gap Tom Price* Wittenoom	Alice Springs* Batchelor Darwin Hermannsburg Katherine* Pine Creek Santa Teresa Tindal	Camooweal Cloncurry Mount Isa*

Zone B locations

Western Australia	New South Wales	Queensland
Boulder Coolgardie Esperance Kalgoorlie* Kambalda Leonora Mullewa Norseman Northampton Ravensthorpe Southern Cross	Bourke Brewarrina Broken Hill Cobar Collarenebri Lightning Ridge Menindee Wilcannia	Airlie Beach Atherton Augathella Ayr Barcaldine Blackall Bowen Cairns Cardwell Charleville Charters Towers Clifton Beach Collinsville Cunnamulla Greenvale Home Hill Ingham Innisfail Longreach Mackay Mareeba Mossman Port Douglas Proserpine Quilpie Sarina Tambo Townsville Tully Winton
South Australia	Tasmania	
Woomera	Queenstown Rosebery	

Locations that are within a 250 kilometre radius of the asterisked (*) locations are also in the relevant zone.

Attachment A

Locations within Tax Zones

Special areas

Western Australia	Northern Territory	Queensland
Balladonia Deakin Denham Eucla Exmouth Fitzroy Crossing Halls Creek Kununurra Laverton Leinster Madura Meekatharra Mount Magnet Onslow Rawlinna Turkey Creek (Bow River) Wiluna Wyndham	Alyangula Angurugu Borrooloola Elliott Galiwinku Jabiru Lajamanu/Hooker Creek Maningrida Milikapiti Milingimbi Nguu Ngukurr Nhulunbuy (Gove) Numbulwar Oenpelli Papunya Ramingining Tennant Creek Yirrkala Yuendumu Yulara	Boulia Burketown Cooktown Doomadgee Georgetown Helen Vale Hughenden Julia Creek Karumba Kowanyama Normanton Stamford Thargomindah Weipa Windorah
South Australia	Islands and territories*	Tasmania*
Amata Aboriginal Community Cooper Pedy Cook Innamincka Leigh Creek Marree Nullarbor Oodnadatta Penong Roxby Downs Tarcoola	Australian Antarctic Territory Cocos (Keeling) Islands Heard Island Lord Howe Island Macquarie Island McDonald Islands Norfolk Island Palm Isles Group	Furneaux Group Islands King Island

*Zones not within zones A and B.

Source: Australian Taxation Office