

1.12 QON: Hansard, p22

Mr KEOGH: I will just wrap-up here because I know we are pushed for time. One of the terms of reference for this committee relates to the Australian Bankers Association's six-point plan. Point 6 states that the banks are in support of the industry funding model for ASIC—basically, a user-pays model, which was floated back in early 2014, I think. That is when it resurfaced. Was your bank in support of the approach of a user-pays model for ASIC at that point?

Mr Thorburn: I think so, but I would have to take that on notice. It would be going back in time. The point here, as part of the ABA initiatives, and a broader point, is that we support, encourage and want strong regulators in Australia. I think we have them. That has helped the industry, with other aspects as well, to be in really good stead today. We wanted to be really clear, as part of the ABA, that we support ASIC as a strong regulator. We note they have additional resources. We support that. They have a very important role to play.

*ANSWER: NAB supports ASIC being a strong and well-resourced regulator. NAB publicly committed to supporting an industry funding model for ASIC following the Government's announcement on 20 April 2016 about the future funding model for ASIC. Prior to this, NAB supported a submission made by the Australian Bankers' Association (ABA) in March 2015 in response to the Financial System Inquiry (FSI) final report. The ABA said that broadly any adoption of a user pays model be accompanied by appropriate checks that industry contributions are utilised efficiently, and that there are limits on the size of levies to ensure they are reasonable and consistent with the services provided.*

*An industry funding model will bring ASIC into line with other key Australian regulators which oversee NAB; including APRA and AUSTRAC who are funded (at least in part) by the entities they regulate; along with many overseas financial regulators.*