

**Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Australian Taxation Office**

Fit-out of new leased premises for the Australian Taxation Office at

55 Elizabeth St, Brisbane, Queensland

11 August 2011

**Supp. Submission No. 1.2**

(ATO Brisbane)

Date: 23/08/2011

**Topic:** ATO Location policy for CBD

**Hansard Page:** P6

**Question:** 1

**Mr Smillie:** At this point I would like to raise the question on notice from the PWC member Mr Bernie Ripoll, the member for Oxley, who earlier, Madam Chair, in the excursion around Brisbane's CBD asked the question about why the ATO would continue consolidating in the CBD. As I mentioned a moment ago, part of the issue for the ATO is the ability to attract and retain professional staff. Our experience right across the country indicates that a CBD presence allows us to attract and keep those people for a much longer period of time. That helps us to build and sustain a long-term internal capability.

**CHAIR:** Stop there, because I know Mr Ripoll has raised it before. That was the question: is it a policy issue to have all the ATO buildings within a CBD? Can you take that on notice?

**Mr Smillie:** What I explained to Mr Ripoll was that we would actually write back to him and formally advise him of the content of our national plan. In essence, the ATO does have a policy that we need to maintain a CBD presence. It is not the only presence, however; in the Brisbane area, as an example, we have sites in Townsville, Upper Mount Gravatt, Chermside and the CBD. This is really about relocation an existing workforce into accommodation that effectively mirrors or improves what they have already been located in.

**CHAIR:** Thank you.

Answer:

In November 2009 the ATO Executive endorsed the first ATO Location Plan, which provided direction and certainty for business and stakeholders by identifying Tax Office site locations for the next 5 years.

As part of the Tax Office annual corporate planning process, the ATO Location Plan is updated annually to reflect organisation shifts, known budgetary changes, staff demographic shifts and workforce trends.

Key principles within the ATO Location Plan include:

1. Sites will accommodate multiple work types (sub-plans) where practical
2. Accommodation supply to deliver 'value for money' whilst meeting business requirements
3. ATO Accommodation Guidelines/Government policies guide the supply of high quality accommodation
4. The ATO is committed to a sustainable presence in CBD, Metropolitan and Regional sites