

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question: AET 1719-1720**

**Topic: Deregulation**

**Written: 7 March 2014**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

1719. What consultative mechanisms did you previously have in your portfolio that gave feedback on red tape? Did any of these forums make a focussed effort or an overt role to get feedback on red or green tape?

1720. In the past year what was the extent of union involvement in consultative mechanisms within your portfolio and how has the level of union input changed over the past decade?

**Answer:**

1719. The Treasury has a large number of consultative bodies – both ongoing and ad hoc to deal with specific matters. These bodies have wide-ranging responsibilities that include providing suggestions and advice about improving law design.

For example, the role of the Board of Taxation includes advising the Treasurer on ‘the quality and effectiveness of tax legislation and the processes for its development, including the processes of community consultation and other aspects of tax design’.

The Treasury also has a formal business liaison program. This program has been conducted for the last two decades and involves meeting with various businesses and organisations to get their outlook on a range of economic issues.

In addition, details of new proposals have routinely been released for public comment via discussion papers before final decisions relating to measure design and implementation are taken. Compliance costs are required to be addressed in Regulation Impact Statements.

1720. The Treasury has not consulted with unions in relation to deregulation policy.