

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Budget Estimates

2015-2016

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: AET 36

Topic: Gosford office – types of jobs

Reference: Hansard – page 62-63

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

Senator O'NEILL: Could you give me any detail about the ATO office lease in Gosford and your role in determining that.

Mr Leeper: Following the announcement by government of the decision to open an office in 2017, we did a scan of the local market. We are looking for approximately 7,500 square metres of office space to house 600 staff, consistent with the current accommodation guidelines operated across government. No such site existed. So, completely consistent with other places where we have made arrangements with the marketplace to lease accommodation—like Adelaide, Docklands, Dandenong, Box Hill and Albury—we ran an expression of interest process indicating that we were seeking a certain grade of office accommodation to a certain size by a certain period and without regard to location, except that it is in a bounded part of the Gosford CBD. I have a map I can table if the committee is interested. But we did not specify location. We said, 'We're in the market for an office to support 600 staff, which we need constructed and able to be fitted out by the middle of 2017 for occupancy later in the year.'

Senator O'NEILL: Could you take on notice the types of jobs that you expect those 600 staff to be filling in that. I do not want to use the time today to go through that in detail.

Mr Leeper: Very briefly, it will be broadly representative of other offices that we have. We have not determined the final mix yet, but it will be a mix of job skills and levels.

Answer:

It is expected that the ATO will provide up to 500 of the 600 Commonwealth agency employees to occupy the Gosford building.

While the exact details have not been finalised, it is expected that the workforce will be broadly representative of other ATO offices, and offer a range of career opportunities for the local labour market and graduates of tertiary institutions in the Gosford region. The ATO intends to recruit the vast majority of these jobs from the Gosford region.