

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

**Question: BET 129**

**Topic: Revenue Group Administered Legislation**

**Hansard Page: Wednesday 30 May 2012, page 129**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

Senator BUSHBY: You mentioned Andrew Podger doing the review and looking at your roles and how you go about them. Is the revenue group responsible for, or does it administer, regulations that have sunset clauses in them facing an expiry?

Mr Heferen: I would not say 'administer'; the administration is done by the tax office. But there are a number of regulations. To the extent that there are regulations involving tax or super, across the department there are a very large number of regulations due for the sunset. There will be a number in revenue group and there will be quite a few in our markets group area. There are not so many in our macroeconomic group or in fiscal group, but it will be some.

Senator BUSHBY: The easy way to do it would be to just let them all die. Presumably some of them do things that you could not let die and you are going to have to review them and work through them. Is that going to deliver an increased workload over and above what you would normally be doing because of the timing of those sunsets?

Mr Heferen: That is probably the case. We have already started a process in the department to examine—along the lines you are saying, Senator—the number, the areas, what it is necessary to continue, what can be done without and what has been superseded by other events. We will go through that process. I suspect, given the size of the task, that there may well be a whole-of-government approach in respect of some things. As I recall it, there are a number of regulations and other statutory rules that actually had the same expiry and potential renewal of 2015 and 2016, from memory.

Senator BUSHBY: Would you be able to take on notice those regulations that are due to expire in the next 12 months?

Mr Heferen: Certainly.

**Answer:**

Over the next twelve months no regulations will expire in this Department. On 1 April 2015 the first regulation is due to expire. If the Legislative Instruments Amendment (Sunsetting Measures) Bill 2012 is enacted the position will not change.