

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2012

30 May 2012

Question: BET 1319

Topic: Shredders (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written (13/6/12)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1319. Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders in the last 12 months? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer:

1319. From 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012, the ATO purchased 12 shredders. These shredders were purchased in two groups for the following amounts:

- five shredders at a unit price of \$8,735 (excluding GST) - for shredding both paper and media devices (*Security Construction and Equipment Committee* (SCEC) endorsed)
- seven shredders at a unit price of \$4,511 (excluding GST) – for shredding paper material only (also SCEC endorsed).

All shredders were purchased either as part of an ongoing asset replacement program to replace old or faulty units or to replace non-SCEC endorsed equipment. (Only shredders endorsed by SCEC are suitable for the destruction of sensitive material classified PROTECTED or higher).

The combination shredders were seen as a good investment as they offered the increased capability of being able to handle both paper and media shredding. They were purchased to service the needs of entire offices, not all of which had a cost-effective means to dispose of classified media in a secure manner.

The paper only shredders were preferred for those sites that already had an acceptable means of disposing of media in a secure manner but lacked a SCEC endorsed product to dispose of paper-based material.

All replaced assets were disposed of in accordance with appropriate asset management policy and practices.

In all cases, shredders were purchased to enable appropriate destruction of classified material as prescribed in the *Protective Security Policy Framework, Australian Government Information security management guidelines: Protectively marking and handling sensitive and security classified information*.