

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Question: BET 1370-1378

Topic: Red tape reduction

Reference: Written – 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

1370. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
- (a) What is the progress of that red tape reduction target?
1371. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
1372. How have they been recruited?
1373. What process was used for their appointment?
1374. What is the total cost of this unit?
1375. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
1376. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
1377. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
1378. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

1370. The ACCC/AER has not created a dedicated unit or taskforce to meet the government's red tape reduction targets. Overall responsibility for the ACCC /AER's red tape reduction activities lies with the ACCC's SES Band 3 Chief Risk Officer and SES Band 1 General Manager Economic Branch, who are both based in Melbourne. Two EL2 level staff (one from the ACCC and one from the AER) who are also based in the Melbourne office are the project officers responsible, although this is not their sole responsibility.

Numerous staff from across all areas of ACCC/AER have been involved in:

- identifying and progressing opportunities to reduce red tape
 - undertaking the stocktake of regulation and costing thereof
 - calculating the change in red tape costs due to regulations being removed/amended/added.
- (a) The ACCC/AER has identified and progressed a number of reforms that will contribute to the red tape reduction target. We are working with policy departments such as Treasury and the Department of Communications to finalise the quantum of these savings and to ensure they are recorded by the relevant department/agency.

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- 1371. Refer to response to BET 1370 as above.
- 1372. No recruitment has occurred as the staff identified in BET 1370 are existing staff.
- 1373. These staff were already involved in undertaking 'across' agency work.
- 1374. Refer to response to BET 1370 as above.
- 1375. As noted above, the relevant staff are continuing to work on other projects and salaries therefore only part apply to work on deregulation issues.
- 1376. No.
- 1377. All SES at the ACCC are required to have a Baseline Security Clearance; all other ACCC employees only obtain a clearance if it is required for their position to have access to information classified PROTECTED and above. The two EL2 staff have not been required to obtain a security clearance for this work.
- 1378. Refer to response to BET 1370 as above.