

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Tax Analysis Division

Question No: 492

Topic: ANAO Report - Government Response

Reference: Hansard page 79-80 (19 October 2016)

Senator: Whish-Wilson, Peter

Question:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: [...] The report on the ATO the Australian National Audit Office released in September made some fairly scathing comments about shortfalls in ATO revenue estimates and other estimates. It was critical of assumptions and methodologies outlined in things such as inaccurate attributions, and made some recommendations. Will you be providing a formal response to that report?

Ms Mrakovcic: Do you mean Treasury?

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Yes.

Ms Mrakovcic: I do not believe Treasury will be responding to that report. I will take it on notice, but it might be a matter for government.

[...]

Senator WHISH-WILSON: It is a fairly complex report. Most people would not be able to read past the first few pages. I know the ATO has made public comments that they disagreed with some of the summaries of the report. I am interested to know whether there is a formal response coming out.

Ms Mrakovcic: We certainly would talk to the ATO. Obviously there are, at various times, measures that are included in budgets that go to enhancing compliance activity. When we cost those we would be sitting down carefully with them and essentially discussing those measures. I also make note of the fact that when I was in the New South Wales Treasury there were a couple of times when there was additional money given to the ATO to enhance compliance around the GST. Certainly, my experience was that what was proposed to come through we did actually see. So, in some respects, I attest to the fact that generally there has actually been a pretty strong ability to meet those estimates. But I take note of what you have said about the report. I will take on notice what kind of response will be provided and by whom.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Thank you.

Answer:

Treasury is not responding to the report. The Australian Taxation Office responded to the report on 19 August 2016.