

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Agency

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Deregulation policy

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 120

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 4

Question:

With reference to the document “The Coalition’s Policy to Boost Productivity and Reduce Regulation”:

- (a) Is it Government policy to reduce the burden of regulation by at least \$1 billion per year? If not, what is the target?
- (b) Is it Government policy to hold itself accountable to a target by conducting regular audits to measure progress? If so, (a) how regularly will the regular audits be conducted (b) who will conduct the audits and (c) will the audit reports be published?
- (c) Is it Government policy to link the remuneration of Senior Executive Service officers to quantified and proven reductions in regulation? If so, (a) what changes have been made to the remuneration arrangements of SES officers employed by the department and (b) will the remuneration of the Secretary of PM&C be linked to the regulation reduction target for PM&C?
- (d) Is it Government policy that the cost impact for small business of all new regulations will be fully offset by equivalent cost savings or efficiency benefits for small business? Has this policy objective been realised so far?
- (e) Does the Government support the National Seamless Economy agenda?
- (f) What changes have been made to the process by which regulations are created, implemented and reviewed?
- (g) Have all Cabinet submissions since 18 September 2013 been accompanied by a Regulatory Impact Statement? If not, (a) have all submissions without a Regulatory Impact Statement been granted an exemption by the Prime Minister and (b) how many exemptions have been granted?

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- (h) Have all Regulatory Impact Statements accompanying Cabinet submissions since 18 September 2013 incorporated a “uniform application of the business cost calculator or another standardised cost estimation technique”?
- (i) Have Ministerial Advisory Committees been established to advise the two Cabinet Ministers in the PM&C portfolio? If so, for each Minister, please advise (i) the role of the committee (ii) the date the committee was formed (iii) the members and (iv) the process for selecting the members.
- (j) Has a deregulation unit responsible to the Secretary of PM&C and tasked with achieving regulation reduction in the portfolio been formed? If so, (a) on what date (b) how many staff have been appointed to the unit (c) what are the classifications of the staff and (d) how many reports have been provided to the Secretary?
- (k) Has a specific regulatory performance target been set for the Secretary of PM&C?
- (l) Who is the “Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Deregulation”?
- (m) Have “Charter letters” been issued to the chairs and chief executive officers of regulatory agencies? If so, (a) to which regulatory agencies have these letters been issued and (b) on what date/s?
- (n) Has the Productivity Committee been asked to identify and describe the framework by which the performance of regulatory agencies will be audited? If so, when?
- (o) Has the policy to replace mandatory regulatory reporting requirements with random audits been implemented? If so, how?
- (p) Has a common form contract for all Commonwealth grants been adopted?
- (q) Have whole-of-government probity guidelines been established? If so, can a copy been provided?
- (r) Has the threshold for sole source contracts been increased?
- (s) What changes have been made to Commonwealth cost recovery methods?
- (t) Has a whole of government risk management framework for Commonwealth regulators been developed?
- (u) Has the department provided advice to (i) the Prime Minister, and/or (ii) the Office of the Prime Minister, and/ or (iii) another portfolio minister or their office about the commitment to a White Paper on Reform of the Federation? If so, on what date/s?

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Answer:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes. This matter is under consideration by the Government.
- (c) Yes. This matter is under consideration by the Government.
- (d) Regulatory offsets are required to be included in all Regulation Impact Statements (RISs). To date all RISs have included this information.
- (e) The National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy concluded in December 2012.
- (f) The Government has strengthened the Regulatory Impact Analysis framework, with a focus on costing impacts on business, community organisations, and individuals:
 - all Cabinet Submissions, including those that are non-regulatory in nature, require a RIS;
 - all RISs must quantify the regulatory cost to business, community organisations, and/or individuals of new regulations and identify regulatory reductions to offset these costs; and
 - all new significant regulatory changes are subject to a post-implementation review within five years.
- (g) Since 18 September 2013, all Cabinet submissions have met the Cabinet's requirements for RISs.
- (h) Yes.
- (i) Stakeholder consultation mechanisms to advise the Prime Minister and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs on red tape reduction are still being considered.
- (j) Prime Minister and Cabinet is in the process of establishing its Deregulation Unit. Resourcing for the unit, including staffing levels and classifications, will vary from time to time depending on the volume and nature of the matters being progressed.
- (k) This matter is under consideration by the Government.
- (l) The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, assists the Prime Minister on deregulation matters.
- (m) This matter is under consideration by the Government.
- (n) This matter is under consideration by the Government.
- (o) This matter is under consideration by the Government.

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- (p) This question has been referred to the Department of Finance.
- (q) This question has been referred to the Department of Finance.
- (r) This question has been referred to the Department of Finance.
- (s) This question has been referred to the Department of Finance.
- (t) This matter is under development.
- (u) Yes (September, November and December 2013); (ii) yes (October 2013); (iii) no.