

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 1901-1904

Topic: Project Management (ATO)

Written: 7 March 2014

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1901) Have there been any major projects or programs embarked upon recently by your agency or where your agency has participated, where there was not a form of cost benefit analysis or business case before the project commenced? If so, please advise why this didn't occur.

1902) What has been the experience of your agency with gateway review processes? Have you found the costs of those processes proportionate to the benefits?

1903) Do you have any major projects or programs where there have been major shortfalls against performance indicators? If so, please advise of those areas of shortfall.

1904) Has there been any expenditure during the last parliament on initiatives that were either abandoned or put on hold?

Answers:

1901) No.

1902) The ATO supports the Government's Gateway Review processes which, in the experience of the ATO, provide beneficial advice and strengthen the oversight and governance of major projects and programs.

The ATO has participated in a number of gateway reviews, for projects and programs, including:

- Standard Business Reporting – completed.
- Super Stream (Stronger Super) – continuing.
- Electronic Lodgment Service to Standard Business Reporting Transition Program – continuing.

Gateway reviews are not unduly onerous in terms of administration or preparation; the associated costs of the reviews are considered proportionate and reasonable to the benefits gained.

1903) Any major project or program may have issues that arise throughout its lifecycle. Where issues arise, the ATO applies normal contingencies and uses best practice project and program management methodologies.

The provision of further detail would be an unreasonable diversion of ATO resources.

1904) No.