

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

Budget Estimates 2004-05, (3 June)

Outcome 2, Output 2.2.1

Topic: Cost to ATO of providing online BAS

Hansard Page: E40(ii)

Senator Lundy asked:

Just going a step further, with the transfer of services online, in particular the ability to complete online BAS forms and so forth, what is the specific dollar value that the tax office attributes to the provision of that service?

Mr Farr—The provision of online BAS?

Could you take on notice what the cost to the tax office is of providing that service of lodging BASs through the portal?

Mr Farr—Sure. You are looking for the development costs of the ability to do it or the ongoing costs of operating that system?

Senator LUNDY—All three, now that you mention it.

Answer:

BAS Online was implemented as part of the ATO's Tax Agent Portal in January 2004 and as part of the launch of the Business Portal in March 2004. The development cost was \$3.94 million and ongoing staff costs to maintain the BAS online application are estimated to be \$330,000 per annum.