

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: Digital rights management-standards

Hansard Page: E44-45

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—Just going back for a minute to standard setting, has the tax office identified or adopted standards for digital rights management?

Mr Farr—No.

Senator LUNDY—What standard do you currently use?

Mr Farr—*I will have to take it on notice.*

Senator LUNDY—Is it the tax office's intention, in light of your commitment to open standards, to adopt an open standard in digital rights management?

Mr Farr—*I would have to say up front I know what digital rights management is but I do not pretend to be the world's expert in it.*

Senator LUNDY—Shall I help you?

Mr Farr—*Any help that you could give would be most welcome.*

Senator LUNDY—The open standard is in fact called ODRL, and there is a proprietary standard called XMRL. I am interested to see whether you have adopted either. Specifically, is it your intention to adopt ODRL, given it is the established open standard?

Mr Farr—*We do not have that information with us. We will take it on notice and get back to you.*

Senator LUNDY—If you have not made a determination, could you provide me with the detail of what standards are being used within the suite of tax office contracts at the moment?

Mr Farr—*Yes, we can do that.*

Answer

As the ATO has no current business requirement for digital rights management, neither Open Digital Rights Language nor eXtensible rights Markup Language are under consideration. No digital rights management standard is prescribed as part of the standard operating environment in any suite of Tax Office contracts.