

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 211

**Topic: Macroeconomic Impacts of Alternative Company
Taxation Policies**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator ABETZ asked:

Media reports of 29 May referred to a Treasury executive minute headed “Macroeconomic Impacts of Alternative Company Taxation Policies”.

1. Was the Minute officially released to the public? If so, by whom? If not, how did the Minute get into the public domain, and is any investigation being undertaken into this apparent leak?
2. Why did this minute refer to Treasury modelling of an Opposition policy proposal? Who requested that this modelling be undertaken?
3. Has Treasury modelled any other Opposition policies? If so, please provide details.
4. Does the Government consider it appropriate that the Treasury model Opposition policy proposals?

Answer:

1. There was an authorised release of the minute.
2. The Treasury advises the government and will undertake any costing of a policy that the government asks it to examine.
3. Treasury provides advice to Government on a range of policy options without specific reference to their origin.
4. This is more appropriately a question for the Government. Refer to answer at question 2.