

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION
(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)

Question: SBT 91

Topic: Election Commitments

Senator Bushby:

1. Were any of the government's election promises in your portfolio costed before the election was called by the department or Treasury or Finance? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done.
2. Had your department or any agency in your portfolio provided information on any of the government's election promises in your portfolio to the Government before the election was called? Was any work done on formulating any of the Government's election commitments? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done.
3. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2007 election within the portfolio?
4. Which 2007 election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?
5. Are there any 2007 election commitments that will not be implemented? If yes, please provide details. Were departmental resources provided to implement these commitments? How much? What will happen to the funding now?
6. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2010 election within the portfolio? Please provide a list.
7. Has implementation of the 2010 election commitments within the portfolio commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?
8. Will additional departmental resources be required to implement 2010 election commitments within your portfolio? If yes, provide details. If no, why not? If unable to provide an answer please explain why.
9. How will the election commitments in your portfolio be offset? Will your portfolio be required to offset the new spending in your portfolio?

Answer:

1. Costings of policy proposals are the responsibility of the Treasury, not the ATO.
2. The ATO did not provide advice to the government on election promises before the election. The ATO, as is normal practice, assisted Treasury with developing new policy proposals by providing input on administrative and compliance cost impacts.
- 3, 4 & 5. All of the government's 2007 election commitments have been implemented, apart from the "BAS Easy" proposal and the proposal to move the position of Inspector-General of

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Taxation within the ambit of the Board of Taxation. After further consideration the government decided not to proceed with these two proposals. The ATO was not provided with funding for either of the proposals that did not go ahead.

6. Treasury would need to provide advice on the status of 2010 election commitments.

7. The ATO has had preliminary discussions with Treasury about issues for implementation of 2010 election commitments.

8 & 9. Additional departmental resources will be required for the ATO to implement 2010 election commitments. The relevant amount of departmental resources will be a matter for consideration in the Budget context, and is a matter for Treasury and the Department of Finance and Deregulation to agree.