



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION

Ms Patricia Scott
Commissioner
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Ms Scott

In a recent meeting with Second Commissioner, David Butler and Deputy Commissioner Mark Jackson, you asked about the Australian Taxation Officer's commitment to the Government Standard Business Reporting (SBR) initiative. Let me say at the outset that we have championed SBR from the start, and continue to do so.

I believe that Standard Business Reporting will facilitate ongoing beneficial change in the way business interacts with Government. The definitional Taxonomy now contains almost 6,000 terms which are used in more than 300 government forms. These are either already incorporated in some software products, and are being integrated into others. From the ATO's perspective, we have developed approximately 50 forms into reporting taxonomy

Clearly take up of the SBR is below what was expected to be the case at this point of time. However I can assure you that that we are committed to transitioning to SBR as our primary channel for electronic interaction between business and the ATO.

In particular we have comprehensive plans for the expansion of the ATO's electronic interactions with the community and these new services and our current services will be based on the SBR capability. We will shortly be discussing with software developers, tax agents, their professional associations and other intermediaries about transitioning from the ATO's electronic lodgement system (ELS) and are working with them to ensure minimal impacts to clients.

You would be aware that the government has decided to use the SBR taxonomy as a key component for its Stronger Super (Cooper Review) initiative. This will be an important step forward in expanding the use of SBR

I am also keen to actively work with the Treasury to develop new approaches, and to accelerate the rate of take up. In these discussions we will also explore opportunities for SBR to be used in business to business dealings which will offer a new area of benefit for the community.

I trust this gives you a sense of our commitment to SBR and our determination to make it our mainstream channel for electronic interactions with the community into the future.

Yours sincerely

Michael D'Ascenzo
Commissioner of Taxation