

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Additional Budget Estimates
11 February 2016

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: Advanced Manufacturing

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 11 February 2016, page 73)

QUESTION No.: AI-8

Senator KIM CARR: In regard to manufacturing, the whole rationale within the political debate is about the importance of innovation to develop advanced manufacturing. As you know, this is a particular interest to me, given that in my time this was an area that was developed. It raises the question about priorities. It was clearly a priority under the previous government. It is no longer a priority under this government. Is that how it works?

Mr Roy : That is not how it is working inside CSIRO. In the reductions that were made through the integrated reform program—you might remember that we provided previous testimony about that—we effectively protected the manufacturing business unit, predominantly, from those changes. Any changes made there were through changes in the external market—their external revenue. We were not going to provide additional money to fill the hole that was coming from external revenue. In these most recent rounds of changes there were not quite specific interventions that said that we need to reduce it outside of where the market was taking us.

You spoke about priorities. We could provide this on notice—

Senator KIM CARR: I would appreciate it if you would.

ANSWER

Manufacturing remains and is a key priority for CSIRO. The research activities, capability and impact objectives are in the following areas:

- High Performance Metal Industries
- Advanced Fibres and Chemical Industries
- Industrial Innovation
- Bio Medical Manufacturing.

These priorities are in alignment with priority industry sectors, including the sectors addressed by the Advanced Manufacturing and Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals Industry Growth Centres, and also the Advanced Manufacturing National Science and Research Priority and its subsidiary Practical Research Challenges.