

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Anglo Australian Telescope

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-101

1. Who will be part of the consortium led by the Australian National University to operate the AAT?
2. Will ownership of the AAT - the assets - be transferred to the ANU lead consortium or will some other sort of arrangement be put in place? If so, what will this arrangement be and for how long?
3. When will the new arrangements for the AAT take place?
4. How many staff members will be affected?

ANSWER

1. Operations of the Anglo-Australian Telescope at Siding Spring Observatory from 1 July 2018 will be funded by a consortium of Australian universities, led by the Australian National University. At this stage, UNSW Sydney, Swinburne University of Technology and the University of Sydney have also agreed to contribute towards the costs of operating the AAT.
2. Details of the arrangements for the assets will be resolved between the department and ANU over coming months.
3. The new AAT arrangements are expected to be in operation from 1 July 2018.
4. Currently, 25 AAO staff are employed at Siding Spring. It is expected that most of them will transfer to equivalent roles under the new arrangements. Staff and the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) are being consulted.