

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15  
23 October 2014

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Cooperative Research Centres

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Written, 3 November 2014)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-108

Program 2 – Cooperative Research Centres

1. What is the relationship between the consultation currently underway on Boosting Commercial Returns from Research and the CRC review?
  - a) Will the outcomes of the former consultation (due for completion by the end of 2014) feed into the CRC review (due to be completed in “early 2015”)?
  - b) If so, will stakeholders have an opportunity to respond to any conclusions arising from the former process before the CRC review is finalised?
2. In relation to the secretariat for the Boosting Commercial Returns from Research consultation:
  - a) Where is this located?
  - b) How many staff does it have?
  - c) Which agencies have provided staff to the secretariat?
3. Minister Ronaldson stated (Hansard, p. 52) that he had been advised that the intent, in relation to the “commercial returns” consultation, that “the intent is to finalise the document which will be released in draft form by the end of this year”:
  - a) Is this timeframe for release of a draft document still correct?
  - b) What will be the process for public consultation on the draft document?
  - c) What is the timeframe for completion of the process subsequent to the release of the draft document?
4. Will the final outcome of the “commercial returns” consultation be made public prior to the 2015 16 Federal Budget? If so, when is any final report expected to be publicly released?
5. Will the CRC Review process include the public release of a draft report or draft findings prior to its recommendations being finalised?
6. Will the final outcomes of the CRC Review be made public prior to the 2015 16 Federal Budget? If so, when is any such report expected to be publicly released?

**ANSWER**

1. The *Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research* discussion paper notes, in relation to cooperation between researchers and industry, that “the Government recently announced the start of an independent review [of the CRC programme] to ensure the programme is making appropriate and effective investments in collaborative projects that will boost Australia’s productivity and international competitiveness”. The two consultation processes will inform each other.
  - (a) Yes, as above.
  - (b) While submissions to the CRC review close ahead of submissions to the *Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research* discussion paper and no further call for submissions to the CRC review is currently planned, stakeholders can contact the department at any time.

2. *Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research* is a joint strategy of the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industry. Staff from both departments are supporting the development and implementation of the strategy as part of their existing duties.
3. (a) The *Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research* discussion paper was released on 29 October 2014.  
(b) Consultations on the discussion paper are underway and include a public submissions process and series of forums with experts from research and industry being held around Australia.  
(c) Government will consider the next steps in the implementation of the Boosting Commercial Returns from Research strategy following the consultation period.
4. This is a matter for Australian Government consideration.
5. This is a matter for Australian Government consideration.
6. This is a matter for Australian Government consideration.