

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: CRC guidelines – Public Benefit Research

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 106)

QUESTION No.: SI-48

Senator KIM CARR: Is public benefit research currently a guideline criteria within the CRC program?

Ms Schofield: I might throw to my colleagues, but the objective of the CRC program is to facilitate end user connections.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, but is there a particular criteria within the CRC guidelines in support of public benefit research?

Ms Schofield: Sorry, in support of?

Senator KIM CARR: Public benefit research.

Mr Stirling: There is no specific criteria such as that.

Senator KIM CARR: No specific criteria? Could I ask you to take that on notice—

Mr Stirling: You can, Senator.

Senator KIM CARR: Because I explicitly put one in.

Mr Stirling: It is not selection criteria, Senator, but I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

The objective of the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Programme is to deliver significant economic, environmental and social benefits to Australia by supporting end-user driven research partnerships. Public good was reinstated as part of this objective in 2008, but is not a specific criterion.

In addition to the specified criteria, broader benefits including public good are taken into consideration as part of the assessment process.

In February 2013, a priority public good funding mechanism was established to support CRCs with a primary public good focus to undertake research and deliver outcomes and impacts that are in the national interest and benefit the broader community and society as a whole. The requirements for CRCs seeking funding under this mechanism are in addition to the standard requirements. No additional weighting or preference is given to these applications.