

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
13 February 2013

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

**TOPIC:** Briefings or costings for the Australian Greens and Independents

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Bushby

**QUESTION No.:** AI-149

1. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include:
  - (a) How are briefings requests commissioned?
  - (b) What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
  - (c) Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
  - (d) Have any briefings requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why they could not proceed.
  - (e) How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
2. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:
  - (a) How are briefings requests commissioned?
  - (b) What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
  - (c) Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
  - (d) Have any briefings requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why they could not proceed.
  - (e) How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
  - (f) Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?

**ANSWER**

1. The department has not provided briefing or costings to the Australian Greens.
2. The department has provided briefings to one Independent.
  - (a) Mr Tony Windsor MP has requested information on programs available to his constituents from the department's portfolio ministers and from AusIndustry directly. Direct approaches to AusIndustry were referred to the department's portfolio ministers prior to response.
  - (b) AusIndustry has provided the following information to Mr Tony Windsor MP.
    - Verbal information on the Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program (August 2012)

- Verbal information on the Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program (November 2012)
  - Verbal information on the Clean Technology Programs (December 2012)
  - Written information about the Cooperative Research Centres Program (November 2012)
- (c) The written information about the Cooperative Research Centres Program that was provided to Mr Tony Windsor MP in November 2012 is at **Attachment A**.
- (d) No.
- (e) The time spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information for the Independent listed in the following table:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Hours spent</b>
SES Band 1	1	2 hours 15 minutes
EL2	1	3 hour 30 minutes
EL1	1	6 hours

- (f) Mr Tony Windsor MP, Member for New England (NSW).

In addition, the CSIRO regularly provides information on its research to all Members of the Parliament, including the Greens and Independents. The CSIRO assists members of the Parliament to access scientific information and knowledge on request, as it does with such requests from all members of the Australian public. The CSIRO does not provide information to the Greens or Independents that is not available to other Members of Parliament.

**Cooperative Research Centres**

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**The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) program**

The Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) program supports medium to long-term, end-user driven collaborations to address clearly articulated, major challenges facing Australia, many of which are global challenges.

Since the inception of the CRC program in 1991, 196 CRCs have been funded. The Australian Government has committed more than \$3.5 billion in CRC program funding. Participants in CRCs have committed a further \$11.4 billion in cash and in-kind contributions.

CRC collaborations involve researchers, industries, communities and governments, but must include at least one Australian end user and at least one Australian higher education institution (or a research institute affiliated with a university).

**Funding information**CRC for Sheep Industry Innovation

This CRC will receive \$53.3 million in funding from 2001-02 to 2013-14, including \$35.5 million under the current funding term (2007-08 to 2013-14).

The yearly breakdown for the current funding period is:

CRC program funding \$'000							Total
2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	for 7 years
5,968	6,952	7,250	6,834	4,624	3,688	184	35,500

Poultry CRC

This CRC will receive \$48.5 million in funding from 2003-04 to 2016-17, including \$27 million under the current funding term (2009-10 to 2016-17).

The yearly breakdown for the current funding period is:

CRC program funding \$'000								Total
2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	for 8 years
1,000	4,400	4,400	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	2,800	27,000

CRC for Beef Genetic Technologies

Since 1993, the Government has provided \$63.4 million to the Beef CRC including \$30 million under its final contract (2005-06 to 2011-12). This CRC ceased on 30 June 2012.

The yearly breakdown for the current funding period is:

CRC program funding \$'000							Total
2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	for 7 years
4,500	6,000	5,700	5,100	4,200	3,000	1,500	30,000