

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
 Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
 Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

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**QUESTION No.3**

(Hansard 30/05/05, p.E4)

**Senator Lundy** asked about:

Can you provide the Committee with a table that shows current staffing against each of the groups, branches, sections and administered programs within the Department?

- In response to this the Secretary suggested that an indication of staffing allocations per Division for 2005-06 could be provided, as well as an indication of the activities those Divisions will be required to undertake.
- Senator Lundy asked that this information be provided for 2004-05 as well.

**ANSWER**

**Staffing Allocations**

The following are the ASL figures per line division (including attributed overheads such as corporate services) that comprise the actual achieved ASL for 2004-05 that will be reported in the Annual Report, and the ASL estimate for 2005-06 that was published in the 2005-06 PBS.

Division	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 PBS Estimate
Ionospheric Prediction Service	44	44
AusIndustry	481	494
Australian Building Codes Board	47	45
Energy and Environment Division	114	139
Industry Policy Division	67	68
Innovation Division	85	88
Invest Australia	111	113
Manufacturing, Engineering and Construction Division	98	89
National Measurement Institute	392	378
Office of Small Business	50	59
Resources Division	117	108
Tourism Division	73	70
eBusiness Business Entry Point	57	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>1734</b>	<b>1750</b>

Note: Figures may not add due to rounding.

**Strategic priorities for the Department**

The Department's *Strategic Plan 2005-08* (released July 2005) outlines the strategic priorities which will be the areas of primary focus for the Department over the next three years. These include:

- Implementation of commitments from the Government's last term together with commitments made during the last election
  - including implementation of *Backing Australia's Ability – Building our future through Science and Innovation* (e.g. Commercial Ready and Techfast programs), the *Tourism White Paper* and post-2005 assistance arrangements for the automotive and textile, clothing and footwear industries.

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- Securing Australia's energy future
  - focusing on maintaining competitive electricity and gas prices through energy market reform and improving energy efficiency, ensuring the security of energy supply and reducing emissions through the development of new technologies (e.g. launch Low Emissions Technology Development Fund, Solar Cities and Renewable Energy Development Initiative programs).
- Capitalising on Australia's resources
  - focusing on increasing the sector's international competitiveness, expanding the resources base, and improving the regulatory regime.
- Measurable reduction in the compliance burden
  - including pursuing regulatory reform on a whole-of-government basis, and implementation of the Regulation Reduction Incentive Fund.
- Commercialisation, collaboration, and investment in innovation
  - including promoting development of frontier technologies and sectors (e.g. develop a national strategy for nanotechnology, implement the nationally agreed biotechnology strategy), developing a better understanding of the linkage between innovation and growth, strengthening collaboration and linkages between public and private sector innovation (e.g. promote a broader use of Commercial Ready for this purpose), and seeking to maximise the return on public sector investment in research and innovation.
- A sustainable pharmaceuticals industry for the future
  - including contributing to the development of a more sustainable Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and implementation of existing programs and development of new policy initiatives to achieve increased pharmaceuticals and biotechnology industry growth.
- Venture capital
  - including provision of secretariat support to the Government's announced review of the Australian venture capital industry, and reviews of the Innovation Investment Fund program and the Pre-Seed Fund.
- Skills development to meet business needs
  - including working with the Department of Education, Science and Training and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to implement the Government's skills shortages agenda and increase industry influence over the skills formation process.
- International engagement
  - including assisting in trade negotiations for free trade agreements with China, ASEAN, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (e.g. participate directly in the negotiations, engage in consultation with industry, and contribute to determining Australia's negotiating position).
- Industry focus on whole-of-government issues.
  - working to influence the policy agenda across a range of areas, including taxation, infrastructure, competition policy, and industrial relations.

In addition to these priority areas, the Department will continue to implement existing programs, provide policy advice, administer legislation, undertake analysis and provide business services.

A copy of the strategic plan is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.industry.gov.au/strategicplan>.