

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
2-3 June 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Working Groups

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2008, Page E36)

QUESTION No. BI-86

Senator ABETZ—So you have established a working group in relation to the issue of climate change?

Senator Carr—It is in regard to steel.

Senator ABETZ—No, in relation to climate change and emissions trading?

Senator Carr—I have a different approach to you on this. I see this as being very much part of everyday activity, how to actually change the way in which industry responds to these questions of climate change, and my discussions with people directly engaged in industry suggests that is how they see it as well. There is no specific group entitled 'Climate Change'; it is part of the ongoing dialogue about the future sustainability of industry in Australia.

Senator ABETZ—You just indicated to us that you have this general consultation and you then had specific working groups for specific issues.

Senator Carr—Sectors. There are discussions with the steel industry, for instance. I have had discussions with all the other sectors as well.

Senator ABETZ—Can you tell us what those working groups are called, what the sectors are and how many of them there are?

Senator Carr—We have a series of conversations. We will take on notice what groups have been established.

Senator ABETZ—I would appreciate it if you could tell us how many working groups there are, their sectoral names and the purpose of those working groups, because I would have thought climate change/emissions trading is something that excites the interests of the Bluescopes of this world potentially just as much as a small business. If you have a working group dealing with industry and another working group dealing with small business there may well be a disconnect if all the issues dealing with emissions trading are not brought together in the one working group.

ANSWER

Working Group	Purpose
Steel Industry Strategy	To consider and provide advice on the key issues facing the Australian steel industry.
Printing Industry Working Group	To consider and provide advice on the key issues facing the Australian printing industry.
Climate Adaptation Flagship Advisory Committee	Informs research into climate adaptation issues.

Energy Transformed Flagship Advisory Committees	Inform research into energy and related issues.
Water for a Healthy Country Flagship Advisory Committee	Informs research into water issues.
Environment and Natural Resource Management Sector Advisory Council	Informs research into environmental and natural resource issues.
Energy and Transport Sector Advisory Council	Informs research into the energy and transport sectors.