

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12  
30 May 2011

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Ministers' Websites

**REFERENCE:** Written question – Senator Colbeck

**QUESTION No.:** BI-116

- 1) How many resources (in terms of staffing and cost) did the Department devote to the recent redesign of the Ministers' website (that was completed in late March or early April 2011)?
- 2) Is it correct that this was at least the third revamp of the Ministers' website in the time since Labor was elected in 2007?
- 3) Is it true that, when the latest revamp was done, it disrupted the setup of subscribers to email updates from the site? Is it also true that a number of those subscribers who had previously registered for instant updates now don't get them until a daily summary is sent out either later in the day or the following morning?

**ANSWER**

- 1) The new Ministers' website was launched on 30 March 2011. The new Ministers' website was commissioned as part of a planned schedule of work to redevelop all of the department's websites with the purpose of transferring these websites to newer technologies in line with current ICT strategic direction.

Existing resources were utilised to undertake this website redevelopment work. The transfer of websites to the new technologies is expected to provide savings to the department through reduced ongoing maintenance costs in the longer term.

- 2) The Ministers' website undergoes routine maintenance and minor enhancements as part of business as usual website work. Many of these enhancements have resulted in technical improvements in the publishing and back-end functionality.

There have also been updates which have altered the content and look of the website. The main changes to the ministers' website have been as a result of Machinery of Government changes. These include:

- Late 2007 - new website for Minister Carr and Minister Emerson.
- September 2009 - addition of Parliamentary Secretary Richard Marles.
- September 2010 – Minister Sherry was added to the ministers' website and Minister Emerson and Parliamentary Secretary Marles were removed.
- November 2010 – All the content for Minister Emerson and Parliamentary Secretary Marles was published to the 'Previous Ministers' site.

- 3) The latest version of the Ministers' website, which was launched on 30 March 2011, delivered a new email update system that provides subscribers with additional protection of their details through a password system. All subscribers were sent an email notifying them of their new randomly selected password and requested that they update their password.

The new email update system sends out a daily email to subscribers notifying them of all the news from the ministers' website for that day. Immediate email updates are no longer available however other notification mechanisms such as Really Simple Syndication (RSS) are available.