

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

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

TOPIC: Funding cuts to Australian Defence Force

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Tuesday 29 May 2012, pages 41 and 43)

QUESTION No.: BI-82

Senator COLBECK: According to the *Australian* yesterday, there was a briefing recently prepared for the minister by Enterprise Connect, which said that around 1,500 local companies that provide equipment for the Australian Defence Force are at risk of collapse because of policy changes and budget cuts. How many more companies in that sector do you estimate are at risk following the government's \$5.5 billion cut to defence?

.....
Senator COLBECK: Have any of the ministers asked you to provide them with that piece of advice? Sorry, let us not try and draw you anywhere you cannot go. Have any of the ministers asked you for a piece of advice in relation to the potential industry impacts of defence cuts in spending?

Dr Russell: I am not aware that they have. But, just to be thorough and careful, I will take it on notice as to whether any minister has asked for that particular piece of information. But this piece which generated this conversation is a piece generated within the department. That is where the initial thought process came from.

ANSWER

No; but a brief was initiated in the department as indicated.