

**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

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

**TOPIC:** Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, Tuesday 29 May 2012, pages 5 and 6)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-50

**Senator COLBECK:** I want to go on to the Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre. With whom in the industry did Minister Combet have specific consultations with about the establishment of the Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre before it was announced on budget night?

**Ms Zielke:** The announcement of the Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre was made on budget night. The announcement of that initiative states that the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Manufacturing will be assisting with industry consultations in relation to that. So we have not undertaken industry consultation as yet.

**Senator COLBECK:** So there was no industry consultation before the announcement on budget night?

**Ms Zielke:** Not on that specific initiative. The minister may have undertaken industry consultation himself, but the department did not undertake industry consultation.

**Senator COLBECK:** Well, that was my question. With whom in industry did Minister Combet have specific consultations?

**Senator Lundy:** Perhaps I could take that on notice for the minister.

**Senator COLBECK:** So you do not have any information on that at all? The department has no information on that at all?

**Ms Zielke:** I would need to take that on notice.

**Senator Lundy:** Senator Colbeck, the government listens to industry, and I think this has been demonstrated by the establishment of the manufacturing taskforce. We have asked the taskforce to consult with industry on the implementation of the centre.

**Senator COLBECK:** That is actually what I am trying to determine—whether there was any consultation. I am just asking if anybody knows if there was. We know that the department did not consult. That has been established. What I want to know is whether the minister had any consultations.

**Senator Lundy:** I will have to take that on notice.

## ANSWER

Minister Combet's Budget media release of 8 May 2012 announcing the establishment of the Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre, stated that the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Manufacturing will consult with industry on implementation of this initiative.

<http://minister.innovation.gov.au/gregcombet/MediaReleases/Pages/NewInnovationCentreToHelpPowerAustralianManufacturing.aspx>.

Any discussions Minister Combet had with industry prior to the announcement were conducted "in confidence".