

**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, page 7)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-51

**Senator COLBECK:** On what date did Minister Combet and/or his staff first discuss the subject of the centre directly with the CSIRO?

**Senator Lundy:** Sorry, was that question about the minister or the minister's staff?

**Senator COLBECK:** Yes.

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

**Senator COLBECK:** I am presuming that you will want to take this on notice as well. On how many occasions since has Minister Combet or anyone from his office written to or directly discussed with the CSIRO details of the establishment of the Manufacturing Technology Innovation Centre?

**Dr Russell:** Dr Megan Clark, who is the Chief Executive of the CSIRO, is on the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Manufacturing. So she was there on 25 May.

**Senator COLBECK:** Yes, but that is a different question. What I am looking for are specific conversations from the minister or his office with the CSIRO around the establishment of the centre.

**Senator Lundy:** I can take that on notice and we can help out where we can, or I suggest that you may want to direct some questions on notice to the CSIRO.

**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>.

The CSIRO is a member of the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Manufacturing.

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