

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: Space Policy

REFERENCE: Question on Notice – (Hansard, 29 May 2012, page 28)

QUESTION No.: BI-66

Senator COLBECK: I have some pretty quick questions here. How many ASL are in the Space Policy Section at the moment?

Dr Green: Approximately seven.

Senator COLBECK: Approximately seven?

Dr Green: It is six or seven depending on graduates and people moving in and out of the section as they go to other jobs.

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Senator COLBECK: So is that six to seven total across the department?

Dr Green: That is the total involved in space policy activities. There are other people involved in, for example, the SKA.

Senator COLBECK: So how many in total across the department and the agencies, and how do they collaborate?

Dr Green: I would have to take on notice the total number of people involved in space across the agencies. There is an astronomy and space science group in CSIRO. That has some function in coordinating space activities within CSIRO to bring a whole-of-CSIRO perspective on space. Space is a focus of activity within government and within most organisations outside government in Australia which is not necessarily a primary function of particular areas or people. It is often part of their work. Getting a precise figure on people who are involved in space work is not a trivial question.

ANSWER

Within the DIISRTE portfolio there are three areas that are involved in space activities:

Area	ASL
Space Policy Unit	7
Square Kilometre Array	13
Australian Astronomical Observatory	77
CSIRO – Earth observation; Deep space communications complex; and Astronomy and space science	368

The DIISTRE Space Policy Unit is the central point of contact and coordination for national and international civil space activities. The unit collaborates with portfolios and agencies across government. This happens informally and formally through a number of forums. All of the portfolios listed in the table below have involvement in space-related activities, however exact ASL figures are not known.

Forum	Membership
Australian Government Space Forum (AGSF), meets twice a year.	DIISRTE; Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET); Department of Defence (DoD); Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE); Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRDLG); Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); Attorney-General's Department (AGD); Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF); and Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).
The National Space Policy Interdepartmental Committee and its working groups, five meetings held to date in 2012.	DIISRTE; DoD; DBCDE; AGD; DFAT; Department of Finance; DITRDLG; RET; Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet; and Treasury.