

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
19 October 2011

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

TOPIC: STEEL INDUSTRY

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION NO.: SI-123

1. After the meeting on 1 February 2011, when did the Steel Industry Innovation Council hold its next meeting?
2. What was on the agenda of the meeting, and how long did it last?
3. Have there been any other meetings of the Steel Industry Innovation Council since that time? If so, on what dates?

ANSWER:

1. 12 September 2011.
2. The meeting lasted for one hour. The agenda comprised:
 - Introduction of the new Chair;
 - A discussion of the current state of the industry, including the recent announcements by both companies (BlueScope Steel and OneSteel) to restructure their businesses and the Government's response;
 - Introduction of the new Steel Supplier Advocate, and discussion of the Buy Australia at Home and Abroad program; and
 - Discussion of the Steel Industry Innovation Council's forward work program.
3. The Steel Industry Innovation Council met on 24 November 2011. The agenda comprised:
 - Discussion on the current state of the industry;
 - Structural adjustment in the steel industry (The Illawarra Stakeholder Taskforce and Illawarra Region Innovation and Investment Fund, and activities on the Mornington Peninsula;
 - Update on Government policy initiatives (changes to Australian Industry Participation and the Prime Minister's Manufacturing Taskforce);
 - Update on the Steel Transformation Plan;
 - Progress report on the Steel Council's Working Group's activities against the milestones and its forward program for 2012.