

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

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

**TOPIC:** REVIEW OF PMSEIC

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 19 October 2011, page 40)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-28

**Senator COLBECK:** Just going back to the process of the review, who instigated that process? Is it something that came from the Chief Scientist, or is it something that has come from within the organisational structure?

**Senator Carr:** I am just trying to establish exactly who asked whom to do what, because I feel I am pretty heavily involved in the review process. I know I had conversations with the former secretary about this matter, and there were conversations with the Prime Minister and conversations with the Chief Scientist. I am just trying to establish who initiated the process formally. There will be a formal response as distinct from an informal response. The process was actually undertaken. Initial conversations were held with the former secretary.

**Senator COLBECK:** Its incarnation came out of the department, not as a suggestion from the Chief Scientist?

**Senator Carr:** No, my recollection is that the conversations started with me. I actually asked the question—but I want to check the official record on that. It is my memory that the conversation occurred between me and the secretary, and we were looking at the British model. It was in the context of discussing bodies of this type—because this has no statutory authority; it is an advisory body, and I wanted to look at how it was being dealt with in other countries.

**ANSWER**

The Prime Minister wrote to Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, on 3 February 2011 requesting that a discussion paper be developed on the options available for the future role, membership and operating arrangements for the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC).