

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

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

TOPIC: Square Kilometre Array Project

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: SI-117

What is the Department's assessment of the total financial cost to the Government of funding Australia's administration of the SKA project? And how will they be reflected in future Budget papers? Will they appear in the form of various line items, or be part of a broader Budget allocation?

ANSWER

The Department has established an SKA Project Office to administer Australia's involvement in the SKA project, including implementation of a hosting agreement. The SKA project is expected to have a life of 50 years and the Department's administration funding is currently being provided to meet costs associated with the project's pre-construction phase. As the project is yet to identify a final cost for the construction and operation of the SKA, funding for administration during these phases is yet to be finalised.

Funding for the Office is contained within the overall Departmental budget and does not appear as a separate line in the Budget papers. However the departmental expenses agreed with the Department of Finance for the Office over the forward estimates are as follows:

	2012-13 \$m	2013-14 \$m	2014-15 \$m	2015-16 \$m
SKA Project Office	2.4	3.4	3.8	0.7