

Department of Industry: Opening Statement

Supplementary Budget Estimates – November 2013: (Key Machinery of Government Changes)

Chair, Senators, thank you for the opportunity to make an opening statement.

The machinery of government changes reflecting the Administrative Arrangement Orders of 18 September and 3 October have resulted in the following changes to the Industry Portfolio.

The new Industry portfolio largely consists of the merger of resources and energy functions and agencies from the old Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET) and industry, science and vocational education and training functions from the previous Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science Research and Tertiary Education.

Agencies remaining in the Industry portfolio include:

- ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation);
- CSIRO;
- AIMS (Australian Institute Marine Science);
- ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority);
- NOPSEMA (National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Authority);
- Geoscience Australia;
- IP Australia; and
- ARENA (Australian Renewable Energy Agency)

Key Changes include:

- Responsibility for higher education, international education and associated quality and research functions have transferred to the Department of Education with the exception of Indigenous higher education which has moved to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- the Australian Research Council and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency have moved to the Education Portfolio;
- Student support functions have moved to the Department of Social Services;

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- Small business policy is now the responsibility of the Department of Treasury and small business programmes (eg Small Business Advisory Service and Small Business Support Line will stay with Industry);
- Climate Change functions - Carbon Pricing and Markets, Energy Market Policy Co-ordination and Adaption and Science have moved to the Department of Environment, while International Climate Change has moved to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- The Independent Contractors Hotline is the now responsibility of the Department of Employment;
- Tourism functions have transferred to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio;
- The Anti-Dumping Commission and the Adult Migrant English Program are also transferring to the department from the Customs and Border Protection Service and the Department Immigration and Border Protection respectively; and

I understand a copy of our organisational structure and our outcome and program overview map were provided to the Committee prior to this hearing.