

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Additional Budget Estimates 2013-14  
27 February 2014

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Innovation Partnerships Initiative Review

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 27 February 2014, pages 61-62)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-21

**Senator KIM CARR:** The decisions were taken prior to the caretaker period. That is my recollection. But you could take that on notice and you could tell me whether I am right or wrong.

**Senator Ronaldson:** Could I just clarify: this was an election commitment from the former government.

**Senator KIM CARR:** It was announced after the caretaker period, but the decision was taken prior to the caretaker period.

**Senator Ronaldson:** Okay.

**Senator KIM CARR:** I want to know whether my recollection is correct. This is the first I have heard of this. No doubt I will have to check my records as well.

**Mr Pettifer:** I am happy to take it on notice.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Would you, please. I specifically want to know what undertakings—

**Senator Ronaldson:** If all the work was done before, why was it made during election?

**Senator KIM CARR:** You will discover this in due course. There were many announcements made of decisions and funding provided. That is the case, isn't it, Mr Pettifer? There were a number of decisions made—a number of grant applications were processed, developed and then announced. Was this not part of a process similar to that?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I think we should take that on notice.

**Mr Pettifer:** I will take on notice the issue about the \$10 million.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Thank you.

**Mr Pettifer:** I cannot elaborate on it.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Please, just say: 'I've found out something today.' I am delighted to hear that you are able to provide me with that information, but I am not certain the other partners would be quite so pleased. Have the other partners in the oil and gas project been notified that their fund has been withdrawn?

**Mr Pettifer:** Senator, it was your government's election commitment.

**Senator KIM CARR:** I am putting to you, Mr Pettifer, that these were decisions made prior to the caretaker period. That is what I am putting to you. You will tell me whether that recollection is correct or otherwise. What I am asking now is: have the partners to that project be notified?

**Senator Ronaldson:** This has been taken on notice.

**ANSWER**

The National Floating Systems Research Centre was a commitment made by the previous government during the caretaker period on 15 August 2013.