

Economics Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 21 November 2013 from 9.00 am until 6.40 pm.

The committee called:

- agencies of the Treasury portfolio, including the Australian Office of Financial Management, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and the Commonwealth Grants Commission;
- the department and agencies of the Industry portfolio, including the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environment Management Authority, and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). The department followed, and preceded the Office of the Chief Scientist, GeoScience and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the reclassification of an entity following a structural change by the ABS;
- ABS processes for determining priorities, particularly in regard to the decision to no longer undertake the Work Life and Family survey;
- the impact on Great Barrier Reef corals from the crown-of-thorns, coral bleaching, and mining and dredging;
- AIMS major areas of research;
- machinery of government changes and their impact on the Department of Industry;
- subsidies and grants provided to particular industries, including the automotive industry;
- the funding of the Prime Minister's Science Prize and science in general;
- the Square Kilometre Array project, its funding model, and Australia's collaboration with its international counterparts;
- the Office of Chief Scientist's periodic discussion papers on various scientific/medical research areas published in plain English, its staffing levels, and strategic research priorities.

Additional security was provided to the committee during the appearances of CSIRO and ANSTO in order to avoid the risk of disturbance