



Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2020-21
Wednesday, 28 October 2020
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Economics Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 7.23pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Cross-portfolio/Corporate, Outcome 1 Programs 1.1 and 1.2, agencies of the Industry portfolio, including the CSIRO; Office of the Chief Scientist and Office of Innovation and Science Australia.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Cross-portfolio/Corporate

- National Innovation Games, particularly membership;
- Go Local First particularly the funding of COSBOA and commissioning research by Crosby Textor;
- funding of the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources;
- grants and tenders—management advisory services;
- Entrepreneur program;
- females in STEM programs—Boosting Female Founders Initiative; and
- interest free loan to Rio Tinto Aluminium.

Outcome 1 Programs 1.1 and 1.2

- Manufacturing Modernisation Fund especially jobs and funds;
- grants to regional areas;
- National Manufacturing Priorities;
- research and development tax incentive;
- legal counsel and litigation;
- Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Export Hubs;
- country of origin labels—review;
- manufacturing strategy in South Australia;
- complementary medicine bar chart;
- space industry particularly launches, application form and cost;
- PPE discussions;
- Anti-Dumping Commissioner;
- funding for Anti-Dumping Commission;
- review into Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC) and relocation to Department of Defence;
- CDIC and SMEs in supply chain;
- CDIC data capabilities and sharing;
- CDIC workforce; and
- Defence Innovation Hub.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

- Tabled document No. 16—Senator Malcolm Roberts—Letter to Dr Larry Marshall from Senator Malcolm Roberts;
- when CSIRO first became aware of COVID-19;
- workforce including working during COVID-19 and employee numbers;
- vaccines particularly for COVID-19, including manufacture and trials;
- coal seam gas wells;
- green hydrogen;
- budget;
- bushfires—expected changes, body of work and satellites;
- own source income; and
- ensuring that research and development work is complimentary and not duplicating, particularly in regards to agriculture.

Office of the Chief Scientist

- COVID-19 response;
- Australia's STEM workforce;
- cutting the cost of STEM degrees and enrolments in science degrees;
- footprint;
- IPCC—Global Warming of 1.5 degree report;
- global temperatures;
- coal-fired power plants; and
- National Hydrogen Strategy.

Office of Innovation and Science Australia

- Projects; and
- Workforce—skill sets.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Thursday, 29 October in Committee Room 2R1, calling:

- Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Outcome 1 Programs 1.3 and 1.4 and agencies of the Industry portfolio, including Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation; Anti-Dumping Commission; Australian Institute of Marine Science; Geoscience Australia; National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.