



Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2021-22
Thursday, 3 June 2021
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.01am until 8.23pm.

The committee called:

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

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Industry, Science Energy and Resource

Cross-portfolio/corporate

Tabled document No. 1—Senator Zed Seselja – Microsoft's response to AFR article—6 April 2021

- name changes for the department;
- rotating Ministers through the portfolio;
- Machinery of Government change;
- industry policy;
- senior executive changes;
- new Minister Porter's briefings;
- mRNA vaccination as a priority to the new Minister Porter;
- performance assessment of the new Minister Porter;
- Minister Porter on personal leave, acting Minister during that time;
- activities of Minister Porter since his appointment;
- Chief Information Officer;
- Whyalla Steelworks;
- mRNA vaccine approach to market for domestic manufacture;
- Ministerial industry and media engagement;
- Departmental use of cloud services;
- Ministerial engagement with the technology sector;
- vaccine domestic manufacturing strategy (including mRNA);

Outcome 1 Programs 1.1

- Greensill Capital;
- negotiations with Ferretti Group;
- Whyalla steelworks;
- National Carp Control Plan;
- R&D tax arrangements;
- budget cuts to science agencies;
- patent boxes;
- square kilometre array;
- mRNA vaccines;

Outcome 1 Programs 1.2

Tabled document No. 2 – Senator Rex Patrick – Certificate of Conformity

Tabled document No. 3 – Senator Rex Patrick – Kooltherm K15 Rainscreen Board

- product certification (insulation);
- JAS-ANZ;
- complaint made about Minister Porter;
- Australian Space Agency;
 - launch permit applications;
 - starlink discussions;
 - digital economy strategy;
 - planning missions to bring leading space companies into space;
- Modern Manufacturing Strategy;
 - job creation;
 - consultation that led to the six manufacturing priorities that led to the Modern Manufacturing Strategy;
 - fibre;
- regional manufacturing and consultation;
- Modern Manufacturing Strategy – measuring success;
- Artificial Intelligence Action Plan – submissions, analysis, CRCs;
- Manufacturing Modernisation Fund; and
- Industry Growth Centres.

Office of Innovation and Science Australia

- Role in facilitating commercial innovation.

IP Australia

- Patent boxes.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Tabled document No. 4 – CSIRO – Opening Statement

- key priorities;
- staff – funding and employment;
- CO2;
- GenCost;
- coal markets;
- edible insects report;
- COVID-19 research;
- vaccines – COVAX, UQ, CEPI;
- Australian Climate Service;
- use of labour hire companies;
- Data61 jobs; and
- research with international partners and live bats.

Office of the Chief Scientist

- take up of STEM in the community;
- commercialising research;
- allocation of funding;
- climate research; and
- Rapid Research Information Forum – the most promising vaccines for COVID-19.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Friday, 4 June 2021 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 Geoscience Australia, National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.