

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Treasury Laws Amendment (Research and Development Tax Incentive) Bill 2019 [Provisions]
29 June 2020

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: Decline in R&D on BERD

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 29 June 2020, Page number 45)

QUESTION No.: 6

Senator KIM CARR: We can go through it line by line, but that's essentially the concern I have here. The proposition is that there's been a 32 per cent decline in R&D on BERD between 2015-16 and 2018-19. Would you agree?

Mr Calder: I don't have those numbers with me.

Senator KIM CARR: Could you take that on notice?

Mr Calder: I can take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: That's based on the SRI figures on activities.

Mr Calder: I do note there's been a decline in BERD on a continuous basis from 2008-09 through to now, and that's partly based on more structural changes.

Senator KIM CARR: I'm looking at the figures between 2015-16 and 2018-19, on the SRI tables, and your own industry department's annual reports. Can you confirm that?

Mr Calder: I'd have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The Science, Research and Innovation (SRI) Budget Tables include data on government support for business research and development (R&D), including through the R&D Tax Incentive. The SRI Budget Tables were last published in September 2019 and can be found at:
<https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/science-research-and-innovation-sri-budget-tables>.

The ABS publication on Business Resources Devoted to Research and Experimental Development reports on business expenditure on R&D (BERD) every second year. The ABS BERD data were last published in September 2019 and can be found at:
<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/8104.0/>.