

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Inquiry into Opportunities for strengthening Australia's relations with the Republic of France
24 June 2020

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

TOPIC: Australia's current industry engagement with the French Pacific

REFERENCE: Written Question

QUESTION No.: ROF-5

What is Australia's current industry engagement with the French Pacific?

- a. What are the challenges that Australia faces with industry engagement in this region?
- b. Where is there scope for improving Australia's industry engagement with the French Pacific?

ANSWER

1. Whilst there are opportunities for more industry engagement in the French Pacific, due to their relatively small economies and projected growth, DISER's focus is on sectors covered by our portfolio across the Indo-Pacific region more generally. DISER is strategically focused on select regional partners, and multilateral fora such as ASEAN.
2. For DISER, the Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) sector presents the biggest opportunity to increase engagement in the French Pacific, with the revitalisation of the mining industry in French overseas territories.
3. Engagement with the French mining and METS sector is predominantly industry-led.