

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Launceston City Deal

**Senator:** McAllister

**Question reference number:** 68

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**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 July 2017

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**Question:**

**Senator McALLISTER:** I just have a few quick questions about Launceston. I understand that an industry forum was to take place in 2017. Is there a date for that industry forum?

**Ms Wiley-Smith:** Senator, when you say 'an industry forum', do you have further information on that?

**Senator McALLISTER:** I understand that it is on page 31 of the Launceston City Deal.

**Ms Wiley-Smith:** Yes, this is the Regional Industry Forum, which will inform the Regional Economic Development Strategy, which will focus on opportunities to improve labour market participation. The forum will include participants from all levels of government. Yes, that forum will be held in 2017.

**Senator McALLISTER:** No date as yet?

**Ms Wiley-Smith:** I would have to check on that and get back to you.

**Dr Kennedy:** There may be a date for that. We will just take it on notice and check.

**Senator McALLISTER:** All right.

**Ms Wiley-Smith:** There was a recent meeting of all three levels of government to talk through implementation, so it is quite possible that a date has been set, but we will need to check.

**Senator McALLISTER:** In terms of the Regional Economic Development Strategy, I understand that there was an offer of data support. Have datasets been provided by the Commonwealth to support that project?

**Ms Wiley-Smith:** Again, I would have to check that. I am aware of the commitment, but we just need to check.

**Senator McALLISTER:** I understand there is also a commitment to undertake a survey of local businesses. Has that been commenced?

**Ms Wiley-Smith:** This is a survey that will run annually from 2017 to 2022. I would have to check to see if it has commenced yet, but I just note that this agreement has only just been signed.

**Answer:**

The regional industry forum was delivered on 10 May 2017 by the Tasmanian Government.

The Regional Economic Development Strategy is being led by the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation. It is in the early stages of development and is drawing on public data sets produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Commonwealth Government has not yet been asked for any additional data.

The 2017 survey of local businesses commenced on 20 April 2017 and was completed on 11 May 2017.