

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2014-15
Thursday, 26 February 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: CO2CRC – Carbon Capture and Storage Grant

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 26 February 2015, page 116)

QUESTION No.: AI-21

Senator KIM CARR: I understand the CO2CRC, which did not progress to interview for the CRC program funding but has received funding from another source. Is that correct?

Ms Beauchamp: I understand the CRC program funding has ceased, and the CO2CRC won a grant under the Carbon Capture and Storage Flagships Program.

Senator KIM CARR: Who administers that?

Ms Beauchamp: We administer that on behalf of the minister.

Senator KIM CARR: So one branch of the department said, 'You're not getting money,' and another branch said, 'You are.' Is that what happened?

Ms Beauchamp: I think it was for a specific project; it was not actually for the CRC itself.

Senator KIM CARR: How much money did they get?

Mr Hoffman: The grant was \$25 million over five years. As the secretary has outlined, it was not for the general operations of the CRC in total but dedicated to the Otway facility, which is a specific research facility for the testing of sequestration of CO2.

Senator KIM CARR: The application would have been gone into the carbon capture and storage program some time ago, wouldn't it?

Mr Hoffman: I am not sure what 'some time' might mean.

Senator KIM CARR: When was the application submitted?

Mr Hoffman: There was discussion and work about that over a period of time.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you tell me the date on which an application was submitted and the \$25 million from the carbon capture and storage program?

Mr Hoffman: I can certainly take that on notice for the exact date.

Senator KIM CARR: Was it recently? Was it five years ago? When was it?

Senator Ronaldson: He said he would take it on notice.

Mr Hoffman: It was certainly prior to the budget and, as I said, over a period of time. I will take the exact date on notice.

ANSWER

The CO2CRC applied for extension funding under the CRC program on 3 July 2014. It was advised on 23 September 2014 that it was unsuccessful.

Separate to this the Government took a decision in the 2014 Budget to provide funds to support the continued operations of the Otway storage facility. This was based on consideration of the CO2CRC's business plan for the operation of the facility from 2015 to 2020. The CO2CRC provided an initial copy of a draft Business Plan for 2015 to 2020 to the Department on 7 February 2014. The final was then formally submitted on 1 May 2014.