

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** SRA Tables – Science and Research Funding

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 26 February 2015, page 90)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-3

**Senator KIM CARR:** The way I see it the SRA tables tell me that the funding has actually declined from \$9.6 billion to \$9 billion. It was \$9.6 billion under Labor to \$9 billion under this government. Now, that is not quite consistent with what you have told the committee.

**Ms Beauchamp:** When you look at the actual expenditure figures they will show that there has been an increase in that.

**Senator KIM CARR:** I have only got the tables in front of me.

**Ms Beauchamp:** The other thing I spoke about was the net increase in the science and research budget from the last budget.

**Senator KIM CARR:** I have the tables in front of me. I am saying that you told me that there has been a growth in funding according to those tables. That is not true, is it?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I can go through it. I have just been handed some of the figures. For 2013-14, an \$8.6 billion estimate and the estimated actual is \$9.5 billion. I think we are looking at a higher figure than that for actuals for this year. From 2013-14 there has been an increase from the estimate to the actual expenditure.

**Senator KIM CARR:** What I have in front of me are the tables. In 2013-14 it is \$9.5 billion down to \$9.1 billion. Can you tell me if I have misread the table?

**Ms Beauchamp:** What the table might refer to is the estimated actual, and I am referring to the actual.

**Senator KIM CARR:** When did you publish these tables?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I will have to take that notice.

**Senator KIM CARR:** The government's record on science is very poor and you ought to make sure that the tables that you publish are actually consistent with what you have said.

**Ms Beauchamp:** I think there is probably a timing issue. I will take that on notice.

**Senator KIM CARR:** It is certainly a timing issue.

**Ms Beauchamp:** I will take that on notice and clarify that.

**ANSWER**

- Each edition of the annual Science, Research and Innovation (SRI) Budget Tables reports (among other things):
  - Budget Estimates – amounts of funding departments and agencies have budgeted to expend on R&D activities during the financial year just commenced.
  - Estimated Actuals – estimates of R&D expenditure that has actually occurred during the financial year just ended.
- The figures reported in any given edition of the tables are subject to revision in future editions, as improved data becomes available from departments and agencies.
  - Revisions are often reported for the Industry R&D Tax Measures, as this data is based on forecasts of revenue expected to be forgone. These forecasts are provided by the Treasury and revised each year as more data (from tax returns) comes to hand.

- The 2013-14 SRI Budget Tables were publicly released on 24 July 2013. These tables reported a Budget Estimate (for the 2013-14 financial year) of \$8.644 billion.
- The 2014-15 SRI Budget Tables were released on 29 August 2014. These tables reported:
  - An Estimated Actual expenditure of \$9.578 billion (for the 2013-14 financial year).
  - A Budget Estimate of \$9.192 billion (for the 2014-15 financial year).
- The Budget Estimate of \$9.192 billion reported in the 2014-15 tables exceeded the Budget Estimate of \$8.644 billion reported in the 2013-14 tables. However, as a result of revisions to amounts reported by the Treasury for the Industry R&D Tax Measures, within the 2014-15 tables, the 2013-14 Estimated Actual figure was \$9.578 billion. The upward revision was largely the result of an increase in the estimated cost of Industry R&D Tax Measures of \$1.046 billion for 2013-14.