

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: CRC Program – Round 17 Suspension

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2014, page 9)

QUESTION No.: BI-53

Senator KIM CARR: Have there been any expressions of concern made to the department about companies bidding for the first time, finding that they are on the way to a meeting to discover that the round has been cancelled?

Ms Launder: We have received representations from two consortia that were coming through about their disappointment about the round having been suspended.

Senator KIM CARR: Was there concern expressed that this may well be a significant deterrent to companies bidding in this process in the future?

Ms Launder: That hasn't been expressed in that manner to me, no.

Senator KIM CARR: I am putting it to you now: would there be any cause for concern about that?

Senator Ronaldson: We will take that on notice to see if there is any commentary regarding that that is appropriate for you to be given on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: I will get you to look at Coles in particular. How many occasions has there been a round cancelled? This is the 17th round, so there have been 16 other rounds that have occurred before it. Has there ever been an occasion where a round has been cancelled midstream in this manner?

Ms Launder: Given that goes back over some time, I would need to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: I cannot recall an occasion, but perhaps your records are better than my memory. It is a unique circumstances.

Senator Ronaldson: It has been taken on notice.

ANSWER

Some potential applicants have expressed their disappointment to the Department that the 17th round would not proceed but none have indicated this would be a significant deterrent to bidding in the future.

As at 30 June 2014, Coles was not identified as a participant in any registered potential applications and the Department had not received representations from Coles on this matter.

There is no record of any previous Cooperative Research Centres selection round being withdrawn.