

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Budget Estimates  
3 and 4 June 2015

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

**TOPIC:** Innovation Australia Board

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 35)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-38

**Senator KIM CARR:** Regarding board vacancies, there are currently six vacancies on the Innovation Australia board. Is that right?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I think I would have to look at what the minimum and maximum amounts are for the Innovation Australia board. That is one of the boards that the minister has indicated he wants to reshape. I will just confirm that. The reason I have been a bit general is that you can have between four and 13 members on the Innovation Australia board.

**Senator KIM CARR:** How many do you have at the moment?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I will get to that in a moment, but this is one of the boards the minister definitely wants to reshape, acknowledging that it is a statutory requirement. But I think when he put together the advisory group for the growth centres—we are looking and he is looking at how we reshape the Innovation Australia board. So, it is probably not relevant to refer to the number of vacancies, because we are looking at between four and 13.

**Senator KIM CARR:** There are currently eight on the board. Is that right?

**Ms Beauchamp:** That is my understanding, yes.

**Senator KIM CARR:** When you say you reshape, does that mean fill the vacancies?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I said that they were not necessarily vacancies, because the minister is having a good look at what he wants this board to do, sitting alongside the other boards that have been set up in the portfolio.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Within the act?

**Ms Beauchamp:** Within the act, indeed.

**Senator KIM CARR:** When will the minister be making a decision with regard to the reshaping of the board?

**Ms Beauchamp:** That is a decision for the minister, and I would have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

On 2 June 2015, the Minister for Industry and Science revoked the Direction given to Innovation Australia on 4 November 2009 and issued an additional functions Direction under section 19 of the *Industry Research and Development Act 1986*. A Cooperative Research Centres Advisory Committee and Entrepreneurs' Programme Committee were established under Innovation Australia on 18 June 2015 and 30 June 2015 respectively.