

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: CRC Committee – date of decisions

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 47)

QUESTION No.: BI-44

Senator KIM CARR: What was the date on which the CRC for innovative manufacturing was approved by the CRC committee?

Mr Stirling: The CRC committee does not make decisions.

Senator KIM CARR: No, but it recommended. Technically, they are ministerial decisions.

Senator Ronaldson: You cannot ask when they made the decision. You have just been told they did not make the decision.

Senator KIM CARR: What was the date on which it was considered and agreed by the CRC committee for recommendation to the minister?

Mr Stirling: There are a couple of dates here. On 2 June 2014, a proposal for the innovative manufacturing CRC was submitted. The proposal was subsequently assessed by the CRC Committee and subject matter experts. The CRC Committee subsequently recommended to the minister that the application was suitable for funding.

Senator KIM CARR: What date was that?

Mr Stirling: I do not actually have that date on me. I can take that on notice. The decision in relation to whether or not the minister would fund that CRC was not made until post the CRC review being finalised.

Senator KIM CARR: I understand that. I would like to know the date on which the committee made the decision to recommend it and I would like to know the date on which that decision was transmitted to the minister's office.

Ms Beauchamp: We will take that on notice; but, as Mr Hoffman mentioned—

Senator KIM CARR: And then how long—

Senator Ronaldson: Please let the secretary finish.

Mr Stirling: the minister wanted to consider that CRC in the context of the Miles report, which commenced about September last year. Whilst David Miles was undertaking his report, it was considered to wait for the outcomes of those recommendations before making any determinations.

ANSWER

The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Committee met on 24 June 2014 to consider the proposed Innovative Manufacturing CRC. The Committee transmitted its initial recommendation to the Minister on 18 July 2014. This recommendation was re-transmitted to the Minister on 30 April 2015 following the finalisation of the CRC Review.