

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 Funding

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 49)

QUESTION No.: BI-45

Senator KIM CARR: How many CRCs are up for renewal?

Mr Hoffman: In which year?

Senator KIM CARR: For those years.

Mr Hoffman: A large number of them will be up for renewal at any point in time in those years. Of course, we have to take into account the Miles recommendation, which the government has accepted, that 10 years should be the maximum term of a CRC.

Mr Stirling: To give you some detail on that if it helps: in 2015-16 there are two CRCs that are due to finalise. At the end of 2016-17 there are a further five that are due to finish. At the end of 2017-18 there are a further six that are due to finish.

Senator KIM CARR: The tables I have worked from were in response to question on notice No. 63. When was that provided to the committee?

Senator Ronaldson: If you have it there, it will have the date on it. Sorry, but it is very difficult to answer this question without knowing when the question was lodged and when it was answered.

Senator KIM CARR: It was the last round, from my recollection. What date was it provided? The question I put to you, though, is that you are saying to me that those answers you provided were incorrect.

Ms Beauchamp: No, I think I have mentioned a couple of times that the commitments change from day to day. Without that question on notice in front of me, I am not sure what the as at date was. Of course it would change after that date.

Senator Ronaldson: It was 2 March.

Senator KIM CARR: So it has changed in two months.

Mr Stirling: It changes every day.

Senator Ronaldson: It is three months, actually.

Senator KIM CARR: And the information you provided is effective as of when?

Ms Beauchamp: Budget night.

Senator KIM CARR: When will the next CRC funding round commence?

Mr Hoffman: The government has not decided that as yet. To add to that: on 26 May the minister stated at the CRC Association conference that he wanted first to have the CRCs reviewed as per the Miles review recommendations. This process will probably take the balance of the year, and the commitment to the 18th round will be after that.

Senator KIM CARR: What is the average amount provided to each CRC at the moment?

Mr Hoffman: I will take the exact number on notice, but roughly I think it is about \$30 million or \$40 million.

Mr Stirling: It is between \$20 million and \$40 million. It varies depending on the length of the CRC.

ANSWER

Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Programme funding ranges from \$14 million to \$47 million, representing an average of \$26.1 million (GST exclusive).