

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: Manufacturing Transition Programme

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 61)

QUESTION No.: BI-55

Dr Byrne: There has been one round of the Manufacturing Transition Program. My colleague Ms Peterson might like to add to that. But, yes, the announcements have been made.

Ms Peterson: The announcement took place on 20 May.

Senator KIM CARR: Why did it take two years to get it up and running?

Ms Peterson: The program was announced, as we said, as an election commitment. Round 1 of the program opened in September 2014 and closed on 21 October. There was an industry led advisory committee that met on 16 February this year to assess the applications and to determine funding recommendations to be put forward to the minister. While the total quantum of funds available was sufficient, the recommended projects could not be put forward for approval to the minister until necessary changes have been made to the funding profile to accommodate the proposed milestone payments. Within the requirements of the financial framework, funding decisions must of course consider whether or not there are sufficient uncommitted funds across the year. We put in a movement of funds request that was made and approved by the Minister for Finance on 2 April as part of whole-of-government processes. The grants were approved shortly afterwards.

Dr Byrne: Perhaps I could add a comment because your question goes to timing. The program was announced as a measure over three years. The sorts of initiatives that are being progressed are large-scale. So the timing is actually appropriate within the context of what was announced by government—a three-year program.

Senator KIM CARR: On the successful projects and the assessment process, how many projects have been announced?

Dr Byrne: Nineteen.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you give me a breakdown of the projects in each state and territory?

Ms Peterson: Certainly. There are eight in New South Wales, six in Queensland, three in Victoria, one in South Australia and one in Western Australia. I will note that across a number of the projects there will be activity across a number of states, but what I have just described to you indicates where the majority of project activity will take place.

Senator KIM CARR: Why was there only one in South Australia?

Ms Peterson: It was a highly competitive program.

Senator KIM CARR: Highly. How many of the successful projects are actually in Liberal electorates?

Ms Peterson: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: While you are there, can you give me a breakdown on which state and territory and which federal electorate each project is based in?

Ms Peterson: Certainly. Again, I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

The below table provides detail on Manufacturing Transition Programme Project locations. Thirteen of these projects are in Liberal electorates.

Organisation	Project Location/s (Electorate)
Bega Cheese Limited	Bega NSW (Eden-Monaro)
Cochlear Limited	Newstead QLD (Brisbane) Lane Cove NSW (North Sydney) Macquarie University NSW (Bennelong)
Ecolab Pty Ltd	Revesby NSW (Hughes) Darra QLD (Oxley) Kwinana Beach WA (Brand) Cheltenham VIC (Goldstein)
Fero Group Pty Ltd	Kewdale WA (Swan)
Ferra Engineering Pty Ltd	Tingalpa QLD (Bonner)
Gelita Australia Pty Ltd	Josephville QLD (Wright)
GlaxoSmithKline Australia Pty Ltd	Boronia VIC (Aston)
Hedweld Engineering Pty Ltd	Mount Thorley NSW (Hunter)
Hickory Building Systems Pty Ltd	Brooklyn VIC (Gellibrand)
Hofmann Engineering Pty Ltd	Broadmeadow NSW (Newcastle) Bassendean WA (Perth)
Mulgowie Fresh Pty Ltd	Mulgowie QLD (Wright)
National Glass Pty Ltd	Boondall QLD (Lilley)
Nissan Casting Australia Pty Ltd	Dandenong VIC (Isaacs)
Oakmoore Pty Ltd	Salisbury QLD (Moreton)
Philmac Pty Limited	North Plympton SA (Hindmarsh)
Reinforced Concrete Pipes Australia (Holdings) Pty Ltd	Somersby NSW (Robertson)
Romar Engineering Pty Ltd	Sefton NSW (Banks)
Vegco Pty Ltd	Smeaton Grange NSW (Macarthur)
WTG Pty Ltd	Kurnell NSW (Cook)