

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: Government's Response to the Boosting Commercial Returns from Research discussion paper

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-73

In relation to the Government's Response to the Boosting Commercial Returns from Research discussion paper and the 'Agenda for Action':

1. What is the lead agency responsible for each action item? Please provide a breakdown against each of the items listed in the 'Agenda for Action'.
2. What are the timelines for actions and outcomes against each action item? Please provide a breakdown against each of the items listed in the 'Agenda for Action'.
3. How many submissions were provided in response to the discussion paper? Will there be any further documentation stating how the government will respond to the extensive recommendations made in these submissions?

ANSWER

1 and 2.

	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Timeline and outcome
1	The Government has published science and research priorities to align areas of national research excellence with Australia's industrial strengths, global trends and community interests. Each priority is supported by practical research challenges developed in consultation with experts from industry, research organisations and government.	Industry and Science	Completed – announcement made 26 May 2015.
2	Develop options for allocating research funding to challenges requiring additional attention. ¹	Industry and Science/Education and Training/Health	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
3	Develop simpler, more transparent research block grant arrangements which continue to focus on quality and excellence, support greater industry and end-user engagement, and better engagement and knowledge	Education and Training	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.

¹ Action Item 1 on science and research priorities has been split into two elements in this table to assist in the clarity of reporting.

	transfer with industry.		
4	Identify further opportunities to enhance collaboration between publicly funded research agencies and industry.	Industry and Science	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
5	Commission a review of research training arrangements to prepare excellent researchers who work productively with industry to bring their ideas to market.	Education and Training	In progress – review announced 20 May 2015 with report to be provided to the Minister for Education and Training in March 2016. Timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
6	Examine the operation of the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Incentive, within the broader context of reviewing the effectiveness of existing tax incentives for collaboration with public research institutions.	Treasury/Industry and Science	In progress – tax discussion paper released 30 March 2015. Timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
7	Work on the establishment of the Medical Research Future Fund to support collaboration between researchers and industry partners.	Health	In progress - legislation introduced into Parliament 27 May 2015 and amendments 22 June 2015. Timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
8	Work with the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council to ensure rules for competitive grants appropriately recognise industry-relevant expertise or research.	Education and Training/NHMRC	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
9	Continue to support national world-class research infrastructure to attract the world’s best researchers and facilitate collaboration with industry. The Government has committed two years of operating funding to the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy , a critical element of the nation’s innovation system	Education and Training	Completed – funding announcement made 14 May 2015.
10	The Research Infrastructure Review is currently underway and will report to the Government in mid-2015. The Review	Education and Training	In progress – timing and outcome a matter for

	findings will provide a solid base for the Government to plan for national scale research infrastructure to support priority research of national significance. The Government will develop a roadmap for long-term research infrastructure investment.		Government consideration.
11	Develop an intellectual property (IP) Toolkit , with model contracts and case studies, to facilitate collaboration between research and industry.	Industry and Science	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
12	Implement a strategy to provide business with greater online access to research. This will allow firms to more easily identify commercially relevant research as well as potential research partners.	Industry and Science	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
13	Consider options to consolidate relevant research programmes which focus on industry to increase their scale and effectiveness.	Industry and Science/ Education and Training	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
14	Develop a whole-of-government policy for opening business and community access to publicly funded research publications and data.	Education and Training/ Industry and Science	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.
15	Work with the research sector and industry to develop a plan to improve the assessment of the research system. This will include improved metrics on engagement and knowledge transfer with industry, research outcomes, and impact.	Education and Training/ Industry and Science	In progress – timing and outcome is a matter for Government consideration.

3. 119 submissions were received on the discussion paper. The announcement of the implementation of the Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research strategy was made on 26 May 2015. Submissions to the discussion paper have been published on the Department of Education and Training website: (<http://www.education.gov.au/news/submissions-discussion-paper-boosting-commercial-returns-research-have-been-published>).