

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: Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-79

Can the Department please provide an explanation outlining why there is a funding cut of approximately \$27 million to the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Program in the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements?

ANSWER

The implementation of the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme has changed since it was announced as a part of the 2014-15 Budget.

These changes include:

- A phased launch of the programme between July 2014 to November 2014 to ensure adequate time for stakeholder consultation
- Fully outsourced delivery of programme services through an advisory network employed by key Industry Partners was delayed in order to ensure continuity of advisory services and support to small and medium businesses while the programme was being implemented, and
- Targeting of programme services to businesses in key growth and enabling sectors.

These changes meant that the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme would not utilise all the funding allocated to it in 2014-15 enabling the Government to redirect funding to support other Budget priorities. There was no impact on the provision of services to businesses as a result of this decision.