

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-97

Have any Department of Industry and Science programs or Divisions provided or agreed to provide funding for feasibility assessment or the establishment of the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory? If so, which program/Division, how much funding, and what are the terms of the funding agreement?

ANSWER

The Department of Industry and Science has not provided funding or in-kind support to date for any aspect of the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory, through any of its programmes or divisions.

Elsewhere within the Science and Industry portfolio:

CSIRO has not provided funding or in-kind support for the project.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) has made in-kind contributions with a total value of approximately \$55,300 in 2014-15 relating to the evaluation of the mine site environment of the proposed laboratory. There is no funding agreement relating to these in-kind contributions.

- The ANSTO Environmental Radioactivity Measurement Centre performed low level radiation measurements on 14 samples taken from the Stawell Gold Mine, to provide information on the suitability of the mine for the placement of detection systems for proposed dark matter experiments. The in-kind value of these measurements was around \$6,300.
- ANSTO's Nuclear Security Research Group has undertaken an extensive on-site radiation measurement programme, again to assess the suitability of the mine for the experiments. This represents an in-kind contribution of around \$24,000.
- ANSTO also contributed 0.25 full-time equivalent staff in 2014-15 to activities related to the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory, valued at approximately \$25,000.