

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: Square Kilometre Array

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-98

Further to the Department's response to question AI-69 from Additional Estimates, what is the approximate quantum of funding expected to be required from Australia for the next phase of the SKA, and over what timeframe?

ANSWER

The SKA Board has set a cost cap of €650 million for construction of SKA Phase 1 construction and operations. Preliminary planning documents developed by the SKA Organisation estimate that construction and operations costs for the first nine years of SKA Phase 1 could be in the order of €1 billion. The SKAO also estimates that the steady state post-construction operational cost would be around €70 million a year.

Early discussions on funding shares suggests that the three host countries (telescope hosts Australia and South Africa and headquarters host the United Kingdom) may each be asked to contribute 14 per cent of the construction and operations costs of SKA Phase 1.