

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Anglo Australian Observatory - other functions

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-102

Regarding the other operations of the AAO (not including the AAT):

1. What operations and assets will be transferred to another consortium?
2. Who is involved in this consortium?
3. Will the instrumentation laboratories be transferred to a consortium?
4. When will these arrangements take place?
5. How many staff members will be affected?

ANSWER

1. The optical instrumentation capabilities currently carried out by AAO based at North Ryde will be transferred from the department to the research sector.
2. Details of the arrangements will be resolved over coming months in consultation between the department and research sector stakeholders.
3. It is expected that the instrumentation laboratories will be transferred to a research sector-based consortium and arrangements for this will be finalised as part of the transfer.
4. The new optical instrumentation arrangements are expected to be operational from 1 July 2018.
5. Currently, 56 staff including casual staff are employed on AAO operations other than the operations of the Anglo-Australian Telescope. These staff are all located at North Ryde. It is expected that most of the staff located at North Ryde will transfer to broadly equivalent roles under the new arrangements. AAO staff and the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) are being consulted.