

**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:** Tasmanian Major Projects Approval Agency

**REFERENCE:** Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 70)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-40

Senator KIM CARR: I notice that the former industry minister, Ian McFarlane, announced a proposition in Tasmania on July 2014. He said that there was a Tasmanian Major Projects Approval Agency—is there a special Tasmanian Major Projects Approval Agency?

Mr Power: I understand that that was the genesis of the agency. Since then, it has effectively expanded its remit to provide services, as we were talking about in relation to the Northern Territory, for example, but now into other jurisdictions through online services.

Senator KIM CARR: But there is no special Tasmanian agency.

Mr Power: There is an office down there.

Senator KIM CARR: An office in Launceston, is that right?

Mr Power: That is right. I believe it is in Launceston.

Senator KIM CARR: Is that right? Launceston?

Mr Lawson: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: There is one in Canberra.

Mr Power: There is the department, obviously, in Canberra, but there is no specific office.

Senator KIM CARR: I am pleased that there is still a department in Canberra and that the National Party has not been able to rip apart the department of industry, yet. We look forward to your survival until the next election. So there is a Canberra office and there is Darwin. Are they the three offices?

Mr Power: That is right. There isn't a specific office in Canberra for the major—

Senator KIM CARR: But there is a department. You are part of the department. Are you still in Industry House? Is that still the location of the department?

Ms Weston: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: But the only Tasmanian proposition is this office in Launceston. It is not a separate, Tasmanian, major projects approval agency.

Mr Power: No. It is part of the Major Projects Approval Agency.

Senator KIM CARR: How many people work in the Tasmanian office?

Mr Power: I think we answered that a bit earlier. I believe it is currently two who are there.

Senator KIM CARR: How many projects in Tasmania have been approved since the office was established in 2014?

Mr Power: I am not sure I have the number in front of me.

Senator KIM CARR: Would you take that on notice for me, please?

Mr Power: I will take it on notice.

## **ANSWER**

Since the Agency was launched in Tasmania on 23 July 2014, it has assisted 25 Tasmanian projects representing potential capital expenditure of over \$3.3B. Of the 25 projects assisted by the Agency since July 2014, 21 were in the pre-feasibility and feasibility stages where the proponent was forming an understanding of the regulatory approvals pathway required for the project before making a financial decision to proceed. Due to the length of the development pathway and the early stage of development for the majority of assisted projects, as at 1 June 2017, one of the Tasmanian projects assisted had completed its development pathway.