

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15
Thursday, 23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Commonwealth Science Council

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 43)

QUESTION No.: SI-23

Senator KIM CARR: Are you on the new science council that the minister has announced?

Dr Clark: No.

Senator KIM CARR: Do you know why you have been left off?

Dr Clark: I do not think that is for me to answer. I would welcome seeing on the new PMSEC the previous chair of CSIRO.

Senator KIM CARR: Maybe Mr Secretary could tell me: why has the CSIRO been left off?

Mr Ryan: The new science council will be made up of a group of science research and also industry leaders. They are supported by a group led by the secretary, which will include CSIRO and—

Senator KIM CARR: This is the also-rans group that people have been telling me about? Is that right?

Senator Ronaldson: If you want to ask us a certain question—

Senator KIM CARR: What is it called this second group, the ones that are left off?

Mr Ryan: It is the secretary's advisory group.

Senator KIM CARR: I see. It advises which secretary?

Mr Ryan: This is the industry secretary.

Senator KIM CARR: Who is on that?

Mr Ryan: I would have to come back and give you the answer on that.

ANSWER

As part of the Terms of Reference for the Commonwealth Science Council provided by the Prime Minister, the Chief Scientist will establish and chair a National Science, Technology and Research Committee (NSTRC).

Note: The Council is a strategic advisory committee.

The NSTRC will be an operational committee and will support the work of the Council. Membership is expected to include senior officials, together with others responsible for operational matters: CEOs of Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council. Representatives of publically funded research agencies will be members, amongst others.