

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing
22 October 2015

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: International Science and Research Engagement

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-84

The consultation paper Vision for a Science Nation, released on 22 June 2015, includes a section on international engagement.

- a. What kind of response have the international engagement proposals received?
- b. QON response BI-91 says that roundtables were being held in Canberra, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth addressing international matters as one of the four themes of the paper. Are these roundtables are completed now? How did people respond to the international engagement proposals in these meetings?
- c. What are the next steps in considering whether and how to boost Commonwealth Government investment or involvement in international science and research engagement?

ANSWER

- a) There has been a positive response from both national and international stakeholders to the international engagement proposals. Key common issues raised include the need to balance regional engagement with broader international engagement with important science-producing nations; the need for strategic funding from the Australian government; the importance of industry-research linkages as well as basic science; and the need for a cross-government response.
- b) Roundtables were completed by 31 July. See answer to QON response BI-91. Feedback was supportive of the proposal for a national whole-of-government approach to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), including an international science engagement strategy.
- c) The Government is in the process of considering feedback from the consultation which is informing the work on an innovation and science agenda.