

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Sharing economy

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Marshall

QUESTION No.: SI-160

1. Have you developed a policy rationale that looks at the challenges of the sharing economy?
2. Which industry stakeholders have been consulted about potential effects of the sharing economy?
3. In May 2015, Mr Turnbull, when he was Communications Minister, praised the sharing economy and its services as being part of the “agile” economy he wants for Australia. What are you contributing to an agile economy?

ANSWER

1. The sharing economy offers many opportunities for Australia’s digital economy. It is the role of the Government to strike the right balance between protecting consumers and workers in the sharing economy while not stifling innovation. The department is active in understanding the economic and social impact of sharing economy business models and the opportunities and challenges it presents to Australian firms and consumers. Ultimately, state and territory governments hold jurisdiction over many of the regulatory responsibilities for sharing economy businesses operating in Australia.
2. The department has consulted with a broad and diverse range of industry stakeholders involved in this policy area. These include businesses operating with sharing economy platforms as well as international and local enterprises, industry associations, academics and state and territory governments.
3. Through the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA), the department is implementing a number of programmes and initiatives designed to support people, businesses and industries to seize new opportunities in an agile business environment. Further details are available at www.innovation.gov.au. The NISA agenda will continue to be revised and expanded over time.