

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: CRC for Developing Northern Australia

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 October 2016, page 133)

QUESTION No.: SI-41

Senator KETTER: There are some I will put on notice but I do not think this will take very long. I have questions in relation to the CRC for Developing Northern Australia.

Senator Canavan: It is in the industry department, but under Minister Hunt's part. Ms Beauchamp could probably assist.

Senator KETTER: The CRC was apparently meant to commence in mid-2016, according to an April 2016 media release. That deadline has obviously been missed. I am looking for information on what the cause of the delay is there.

Ms Beauchamp: As you may be aware, Mr Wharton was asked to look at proposals for developing the CRC.

He has only recently provided his report to Minister Hunt. That is why it was not delivered in mid-June. That was during caretaker period.

Senator KETTER: Can you give a firm time line for when the CRC will be up and running?

Senator Canavan: It is not my primary responsibility, but I know the consideration of Mr Wharton's report is progressing. Establishing a CRC obviously involves discussions with partners in that process as well. Those discussions are occurring. Hopefully they will be completed as soon as possible. I do not have time frame, but we could take that on notice and consult with Minister Hunt and his area of the department.

ANSWER

This matter is before the Government.