

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
 Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
 Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
 10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

TOPIC: Election commitments

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston.

QUESTION No: AI-4

Senator EGGLESTON – What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio? Which election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?

ANSWER

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research has 21 election commitments. Of these 21 election commitments, 18 have been delivered, and three continue to be implemented.

The 18 election commitments that have been delivered are:

	Title of commitment
1	Conduct an Independent Review of the Australian Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) Industry, including tariffs and whether they are appropriate
2	Business Enterprise Centres (BECs)
3	Reverse the 2007-08 Budget measure to establish Australian Industry Productivity Centres
4	Discontinuation of funding - electronic authentication, validation and notary services
5	Review of the National Innovation System (the Cutler Review) to identify gaps in the innovation system and develop proposals to address them
6	Review of Cooperative Research Centres (CRC), as a component of the National Innovation System Review
7	Green Car Innovation Fund
8	Clean Business Australia
9	Reassess the Research Quality Framework and consider alternative approaches to promoting excellence in Australian research (Education Revolution: Excellence in Research for Australia)
10	Enterprise Connect Network
11	Appoint a full-time Chief Scientist.
12	Cessation of the National Nanotechnology Strategy from 1 July 2009.
13	Future Fellowships
14	Bringing Industry, Science and Research together
15	Industry Innovation Councils
16	Restore Independence of the Australian Research Council
17	Rights and Responsibilities of Public Research Agencies
18	Review of the Automotive Industry

The three commitments which continue to be implemented are:

	Title of Commitment	Status
1	Business Regulation – various measures (including Small Business Advisory Council (SBAC)).	In progress. Suitably qualified individuals were invited to submit an Expression of Interest for Ministerial appointment to the SBAC. The call for Expressions of Interest to the SBAC was backed by national advertising. Expressions of Interest closed on Friday 14 August 2009. Minister Emerson will shortly make offers to potential members and is expected to make an announcement of the composition of the SBAC when this is finalised. SBAC consideration of draft regulation impact statements will not occur until the SBAC is operational.
2	Education Revolution – Mission based compact funding agreements for universities	In progress - Program on track, no slippage. Mission-based compacts were announced in the 2009 budget as part of the reforms to the higher education sector. A discussion paper was released and consultations were held in mid-2009. Interim agreements, or transitional compacts, were negotiated with universities in late 2009 and are about to be published. Mission-based compacts will be negotiated with universities in 2010 to take effect from 2011.
3	Revitalising Australia's Public Research Sector	In progress - Program on track, no slippage. Development of 'hubs and spokes' is proceeding via Collaborative Research Networks program. A discussion paper inviting comment on the program was released in February 2010. Funding will commence in 2011. Statements of Expectation (SoEs), negotiated with each of the research agencies, were signed by Minister Carr 25 February 2010.