

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Solar Flagships

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Monday 28 May 2012, page 102)

QUESTION No.: BI-45

Senator JOYCE: What is your role in the education side of the solar flagships? What exactly are we doing with the \$100 million? What is the actual role?

Ms McLaughlin: We are funding research infrastructure.

Senator JOYCE: How many staff?

Ms McLaughlin: I could not answer that. I could take it on notice. We are not funding research itself. We are not funding researchers. The education investment fund is funding for the creation and development of infrastructure that will sit, in the case of Solar Dawn, at the Chinchilla site that will enable research to be conducted that is being funded by the University of Queensland and others.

ANSWER

The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism administers the Solar Flagships Program. The Solar Flagships Program supports the construction and demonstration of large-scale, grid connected solar power stations in Australia.

The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education administers the Education Investment Fund (EIF).

\$200 million from the Education Investment Fund (EIF) has been allocated to support research infrastructure associated with the successful Solar Flagships projects.

The Solar Dawn Research Infrastructure Project plan provided by the University of Queensland, estimates that over 20 research students and 10 post-doctoral scientists will be involved in the project annually.