

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: Commissioned Reports

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: BI-191

1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
 - a) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
 - b) What is the current status of each report?
 - c) When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

ANSWER

1. Please refer to AI-237 for reports that were commissioned in the period 1 July 2011 and 29 February 2012. There have been two reports commissioned in the period 1 March 2012 and 31 May 2012. Please refer to the table at **Attachment A** for details on each report.

| Title | Date commissioned | Date reported to government | Date of public release | Terms of reference | Committee members | Cost (GST inclusive) | Number of departmental staff involved | Current status | When is government intending to respond |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| The economic, social and environmental impacts of the Cooperative Research Centres program | 15 November 2011 | Report currently being finalised | TBA | <p>The terms of reference of the impact study provide for an assessment of the delivered economic impact, both monetary and non-monetary, of the CRC program. The study needs to address the economic, environmental and social benefits of the CRC program to Australia. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a benefit needs to be attributable to the CRC program, i.e. the benefit is unlikely to have occurred in the timeframe under consideration in the absence of the program; • the benefit must have already been delivered (or be commenced and ongoing); and • the benefits must have been quantified and verified by the end users or beneficiaries of the research. | A committee has not been appointed for the impact study, however the study is receiving input from an advisory group comprising representatives from government central agencies, universities and the R&D community. | \$165,000 | 1 x EL1 | Report currently being finalised | N/A |
| Skills Australia Defence Industry Workforce Strategy | Commissioned by the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Defence Materiel, in September 2011 | <p>Discussion Paper: final draft presented to the Minister for Defence Materiel on 14 December 2011</p> <p>Final report: due to be presented to the Minister for Defence Materiel on 31 July 2012</p> | <p>Discussion paper: 1 February 2012</p> <p>Final report: TBA</p> | <p>The Minister for Defence materiel requested Skills Australia to provide a comprehensive Defence Industry Workforce Strategy. The aim is to assist in better positioning Australia's Defence materiel supply and sustainment industries to fully participate in opportunities for Australian Government Defence procurements through the availability of an appropriately skilled workforce.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference require Skills Australia to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine planned Defence major equipment acquisitions and major sustainment over the next ten years • Analyse the expected supply and demand of skilled labour from all sources and the resulting labour or skills gaps • Analyse existing Defence skilling and training assistance programs • Identify existing education and training sector capacity, and the potential for up-skilling or multi-skilling. <p>The full Terms of Reference are available at: http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/sector-specific-skill-needs/defence-industry-workforce-strategy/defence-industry-workforce-strategy.html </p> | The Defence Industry Skills Taskforce (DIST), which is administered by the Defence Materiel Organisation, forms the steering committee for the project. The DIST comprises representatives from industry, unions, government, and the education and training sector. | The Defence Materiel Organisation provided funding of \$484,000 to Skills Australia to support the project. | Team of 5 Skills Australia staff and 3 seconded Defence Materiel Organisation staff. | Discussion Paper delivered and tested through a formal submission and consultation process. Final report prepared from March – June 2012 for presentation to the Defence Industry Skills Taskforce in July 2012. | N/A |