

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
References Committee**

Inquiry into the Green Loans Program
Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio
Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Answers to questions on notice
June 2010

Question No: 12
Topic: Rebate model alternative
Hansard Page ECA: 103

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—When did the department first consider the rebate model as an alternative?

Mr Thompson—I would have to take that on notice, Senator. I do not have that date in my head.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Yes, and if you could let us know when other alternatives were first considered. Mr Thompson, you make a very valid point and I actually understand that it would be extremely difficult to come up with a foolproof way to give out \$50 green reward cards without them becoming essentially \$50 gift vouchers transferable for almost anything. That is why I would have thought that, far earlier than was the case—almost 12 months into the program before an alternative was announced—alternatives would have been considered and alternative proposals would have been put to the minister. Could you also take on notice when alternatives were considered and, if so, what they were, and whether alternatives were recommended to the minister or elsewhere in government instead of the proposed \$50 reward card.

Mr Thompson—I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Alternative models to deliver the originally proposed Green Rewards Pack were initially considered by Minister Garrett in February 2009, including:

- energy and water saving products being supplied directly by Assessors; and
- householders purchasing products using either a specific store gift card or a Program specific gift card redeemable at various stores.

The Department also considered alternatives as part of the Request for Tender process, for which tenders closed on 19 May 2009.

A rebate model for the delivery of the Green Reward was first considered as an alternative by Minister Wong in April 2010.