

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: 3
Topic: Green loans audit function
Hansard Page ECA: 91

Senator Milne asked:

Senator MILNE—Thank you. In relation to that audit function, there was an audit function built in when the program was originally designed. It was there in the pilot stage and a decision was taken to take it out and dump it. Who made the decision to remove the audit function from the program as it was originally designed?

Mr Thompson—I am not aware of that decision being taken. That is not something I can comment on.

Senator MILNE—Somebody must be aware that the decision was taken, because the pilot program had the audit function as a critical part of the Green Loans Program. When it was rolled out, it was removed. Somebody made that decision. Who did?

Mr Thompson—Sorry, I cannot answer that. I do not have any information about that.

Senator MILNE—Could you please take it on notice, because I would like to know when the decision was made—at what date—and who made the decision to remove the audit function from the Green Loans Program, because it was very early on. It was there in the design when it was initially workshopped in the pilot phase; I have seen the documents. So I would like to know who made that decision.

Answer:

The audit function for the Green Loans Program has never been removed. In the initial stages of the program, auditing functions were undertaken in-house. Following the national rollout of the Program from 1 July 2009, action was taken to engage an external provider to conduct audit activities for the Program. On 23 April 2010, the Minister announced the appointment of an external auditing service provider, AECOM Australia Pty Ltd.