

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry and Science Portfolio  
Additional Estimates 2014-15  
26 February 2015

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Energy Programs – Grants

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Ketter

**QUESTION NO.:** AI-47

1. Can the Department please provide a brief overview of the Energy Programs currently being administered by the Department, particularly any discretionary grants programs?
2. Can the Department provide a breakdown of funding for these programs? How much has been allocated and how much has been spent?

**ANSWER**

1. The department currently administers four programmes under Sub-programme 3.5: Energy as reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2014-15 that provide discretionary grants:
  - The Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program is providing \$34 million across 46 projects for the delivery of information about energy efficiency to businesses and community organisations. The programme closes on 30 June 2015.
  - The Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) provides \$101 million across 160 projects to co-fund energy efficiency upgrades to local council and community organisation facilities. The programme closes on 30 June 2016.
  - The Low Income Energy Efficiency Program (LIEEP) provides \$55 million across 20 projects which are trialling approaches to improve the energy efficiency of low-income households to enable them to better manage their energy use. The programme closes on 30 June 2016. CEEP and LIEEP are components of the Low Carbon Communities Program.
  - The Coal Mining Abatement Technology Support Package (CMATSP) provides \$36.7 million across five projects to co-fund research and demonstration of methane abatement technologies and processes to safely reduce fugitive emissions from Australian coal mines. The programme closes on 30 June 2017.

In addition, the department administers the Ethanol Production Grants Program which provides full excise reimbursement, at the current excise rate, to ethanol producers for ethanol produced and supplied for transport use in Australia from locally derived feedstock. There are currently three recipients who will receive approximately \$120 million in 2014-15. The programme will close on 30 June 2015.

Funding for the four discretionary grants programmes is:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total Commitments \$'000</b>	<b>Expenditure to 28 February 2015 '000</b>
Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program	34,250	30,035
Community Energy Efficiency Program	101,197	68,345
Low Income Energy Efficiency Program	55,340	35,918
Coal Mining Abatement Technology Support Package	36,724	7,536

As the Ethanol Production Grants Program provides funding based on actual excise paid, commitments during the year are estimates with actual amounts reconciled on a financial year basis. The status for 2014-15 is:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total Commitments \$'000</b>	<b>Expenditure to 28 February 2015 '000</b>
Ethanol Production Grants Program	120,000	64,022

All financial figures are GST exclusive.