

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Additional Budget Estimates
11 February 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Briquette Replacement Program

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-38

1. What is the current status of the Briquette Replacement Program?
2. What applications had the department received from Gippsland Greenhouse Produce and AJ&AN Bayley of Yarragon under that program?
3. What was the last communication that the department had with either firm, and what was the nature of the communication?
4. When were the firms advised that the Briquette Replacement Program would be ending?
5. What advice did the department provide the firms about what options were available to them given they had already begun making investments in their businesses?

ANSWER

1. The Briquette Replacement Program is closed.
2. Gippsland Greenhouse Produce submitted an application for \$696,391 on 12 July 2013. AJ&AN Bayley submitted an application for \$571,401 on 12 July 2013.
3. On 19 December 2013, the department's AusIndustry Regional Manager for Gippsland visited both companies to provide advice on current assistance measures.
4. On 16 December 2013, the department wrote to and phoned both companies advising that the Government had decided to discontinue the Briquette Replacement Program and that no applications would be funded.
5. The department's correspondence of 16 December 2013 to both companies provided advice in relation to a range of key policy initiatives and programmes that support agriculture and food processing businesses.