

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Smart Cities & Suburbs Program

Senator: McAllister, Jenny

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Type of question: Written

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Question:

- 1) How has the Smart Cities and Suburbs program progressed?
- 2) On what date will applications for this program open?
- 3) Who will decide which applications are successful? What will be the process for this?
- 4) Will the Cities Division provide any assistance to unsuccessful applicants to ensure they have a higher chance of success in subsequent rounds?
- 5) How many rounds of funding will there be for the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program? What funding will this program receive over the forward estimates?

Answer:

- 1) The Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, the Hon Angus Taylor MP, launched the \$50 million Smart Cities and Suburbs Program on 17 March 2017, applications close on 30 June 2017.

The guidelines for the program were developed through extensive national consultations.

- More than 550 smart city stakeholders attended 11 roundtables held in every state and territory in September and October 2016. Input from the roundtables informed development of draft program guidelines.
- The draft guidelines were released for public consultation between 13 December 2016 and 20 January 2017. More than 50 submissions were received.

Final guidelines and information on how to apply is available at www.business.gov.au/assistance/smart-cities-and-suburbs-program.

- 2) See response to above question.
- 3) The application and approval process is outlined in the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program guidelines available at www.business.gov.au/assistance/smart-cities-and-suburbs-program.
- 4) Arrangements for unsuccessful applicants are outlined in the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program guidelines, available at www.business.gov.au/assistance/smart-cities-and-suburbs-program.

The Future Ready package was announced by the Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, the Hon Angus Taylor MP, on 10 March 2017. The package aims to help local councils and communities to develop clever technology projects and to create valuable connections with industry leaders, experts and service providers to accelerate smart city projects. Further information on the Future Ready package is available at <https://cities.dpmc.gov.au/future-ready>.

- 5) There is \$50 million in program funding over the forward estimates. Total program expenditure in round one will depend on the quality of projects proposed.

Further rounds will be considered should funding remain unallocated after the initial round.