

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2015

Agriculture

Question: 70

Division/Agency: Finance and Business Support Division

Topic: Intangible Assets

Proof Hansard page: 29 (23.02.2015)

Senator BULLOCK asked:

Senator BULLOCK: On the subject of intangible assets, they are going to grow from \$66 million this year to \$107 million in 2017-18. What are the intangible assets that are going to jump 50 per cent in three years?

Ms Evans: They are mostly related to our IT investments. If you want more detail than that I might have to take it on notice.

Answer:

As per page 49 of the Portfolio Additional Estimates Budget Statements 2014–15, intangible assets are budgeted to increase to \$100.7 million in 2017–18, not \$107.0 million.

The department is budgeting capital investment of approximately \$140.0 million over the four years to 30 June 2018.

Of this amount, approximately \$93.0 million relates to investment in intangible assets, namely computer software to maintain and increase departmental capability.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2015

Agriculture

Question: 71

Division/Agency: Finance and Business Support division

Topic: Administered Personal Benefits

Proof Hansard page: 29 (23.02.2015)

Senator BULLOCK asked:

Senator BULLOCK: It is a big increase, so I will take it on notice. Administered personal benefits is up from \$73.6 million to \$172.5 million, between this year and 2016-17. What are the main components of that figure? It is a big increase.

Ms Evans: We will have to take that one on notice to confirm it. My understanding is that it once again relates to the change in the Farm Household Allowance, but I want to be sure before we give that as the final answer.

Answer:

As stated by Ms Evans, the increase in administered personal benefits is a result of the increased uptake of Farm Household Allowance.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2015

Agriculture

Question: 72

Division/Agency: Finance and Business Support Division

Topic: Discretionary Grants

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

Can the following details be provided for each discretionary grant program in the Minister's portfolio including Fisheries and Forestry.

- a. name of the discretionary grant program;
- b. total funding on a year-by-year basis over the current forward estimates;
- c. committed funding on a year-by-year basis over the current forward estimates;
- d. contracted funding on a year-by-year basis over the current forward estimates;
- e. uncommitted funding on a year-by-year basis over the current forward estimates;
- f. when the current round of funding is scheduled to cease; and
- g. how many rounds of funding are scheduled after the end of the current round.

Answer:

A list of the department's approved grant programmes, as at 28 February 2015, is provided and includes information on the grant programme, funding allocation, level of commitment across current and forward year estimates, and an indication of funding rounds within each programme (**Attachment A**).

GRANT PROGRAMMES (AS AT 28 February 2015) - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESPONSE TO QON72

ATTACHMENT A

PBS No.	Grant Programme Name	Grant Programme funding rounds	Parts (b) to (e)											
			2014-15			2015-16			2016-17			2017-18		
			Total	Committed/Contracted	Un-committed	Total	Committed / Contracted	Un-committed	Total	Committed/Contracted	Un-committed	Total	Committed/Contracted	Un-committed
Part (a)	Parts (f) and (g)	\$,000			\$,000			\$,000			\$,000			
1.01	Carbon Farming Futures - Action on the Ground ¹	Programme ends 2017. No new rounds scheduled.	9,855	9,669	186	4,305	4,326	(21)	2,867	2,867	-	-	-	-
1.01	Carbon Farming Futures - Extension and Outreach	Programme ends 2017. No new rounds scheduled.	6,087	6,087	-	3,737	3,737	-	2,509	2,509	-	-	-	-
1.01	Carbon Farming Futures - Filling the Research Gap	Programme ends 2017. No new rounds scheduled.	20,661	20,311	350	9,487	8,984	503	5,150	5,000	150	-	-	-
1.02	National Landcare Programme (Agriculture funded) - including Innovation Grants	Programme ends 2018. No new rounds scheduled.	18,695	18,695	-	5,862	5,862	-	909	909	-	-	-	-
1.02	National Landcare Programme - Regional Delivery 2013-18 (Agriculture funded)	One grant funded by Agriculture under the programme.	600	375	225	600	-	600	600	-	600	600	-	600
1.10	Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Current round of funding scheduled to cease 30 June 2015. New programme guidelines are being developed for future rounds.	264	264	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.10	A competitive Ag Sector - improved Access to Ag & Vet Chemicals	Grant Programme anticipated to commence 1 July 2015. Programme guidelines under development. Funding schedule yet to be determined.	-	-	-	1,718	-	1,718	2,532	-	2,532	1,930	-	1,930
1.10	Farm Profits through Rural R&D (A Competitive Agriculture Sector - boosting farm profits through rural research and development)	Current round of funding scheduled to cease 30 June 2018. One or more further rounds anticipated.	19,291	-	19,291	29,295	-	29,295	29,299	-	29,299	19,194	-	19,194
1.12	Rural Financial Counselling Service Programme	Grant agreements under current round of funding extended to 30 December 15. Note funding for the RFCS is ongoing however future rounds have yet to be determined.	17,032	15,570	1,462	14,294	-	14,294	14,536	-	14,536	14,813	-	14,813
1.13	Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (ACACA) Programme ²	Current round of funding scheduled to cease 31 December 2015. Programme guidelines to be approved for new funding round expected to run 2016-2017. Further rounds every two calendar years under this treaty level agreement.	150	74	76	150	-	150	150	-	150	150	-	150
2.01	Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis ³	Current round of funding scheduled to cease 30 June 2017. A further round anticipated after current round.	1,780	1,793	(13)	1,782	1,793	(11)	1,782	1,793	(11)	1,815	-	1,815
2.01	Package Assisting Small Exporters (PASE)	Current round open with applications closing 30 April 2015 with funding expected to commence 1 July 2015 and ceasing 30 June 2018. Further rounds yet to be determined.	-	-	0	513	-	513	2,564	-	2,564	2,050	-	2,050
			94,415	72,838	21,577	71,743	24,702	47,041	62,898	13,078	49,820	40,552	-	40,552

¹ Marginal overspend in 2015-16 due to a contract variation. A movement of funds from 2014-15 to 2015-16 budget requested

² Grants component of the ACACA Programme.

³ Marginal overspend until 2016-17 due to removal of budget indexation which will be offset