**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio
Budget Estimates, May 2012

Program: Division or Agency:	2.2: SPAD	**Question No:**	053

Topic: Suburban Jobs Program – consultation process

Proof Hansard Page and Date 97

or Written Question: (22/5/12)

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: Could you table the list of groups that you consulted with at all stages of that program? I understand that, as would be appropriate, your coverage of local government authorities and their collective or regional bodies was pretty good. I am just interested though in how much more broadly you went beyond that. We can take that on notice.

Mr Thompson: We are happy to table that. We have that available but we are happy to provide it on notice.

Mr McNee: I think we originally tabled a list of organisations we consulted early last year. Do you want the full list again or just the additional ones?

Senator LUDLAM: No, since then. My understanding—correct me if I am wrong—is that this is it. Once you have spent all the money we are done.

Answer:

Details of the number of stakeholders consulted during the design of the Suburban Jobs Program to the end of October 2011 were provided in the answer to Question 066 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2011.

Following the release of the final Suburban Jobs Program Guidelines 7 December 2011, the Department of Sustainability. Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the department) has consulted with relevant Commonwealth agencies during the assessment of grant applications, but has had limited contact with stakeholders for probity reasons.

The list of all groups consulted during the Suburban Jobs Program to 20 June 2012 is detailed below.

National

Australian Local Government Association

Australian Industry Group

Australian Information Industry Association

Business Council of Australia

Cisco Systems

Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Department of Health and Ageing

Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education

Department of Infrastructure and Transport

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Green Building Council

National Growth Areas Alliance

Planning Institute of Australia

Property Council of Australia: Lendlease, Mirvac and Stocklands

Telework New Zealand

The Treasury

ACT

ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

New South Wales

Blacktown City Council

Camden City Council

Campbelltown City Council

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

Parramatta City Council

Regional Development Australia – Sydney

Sydney University

Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

Queensland

Brisbane City Council

Brisbane City Council Regional Development Australia

Council of Mayors (SEQ) Pty Ltd

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Department of Local Government and Planning

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Enterprise Connect Qld

Ipswich City Council

Local Government Association of Queensland

Logan City Council

Logan and Redlands Regional Development Australia

Moreton Bay Regional Development of Australia

Redland City Council

South Australia

City of Salisbury

City of Onkaparinga

City of Playford

City of Tea Tree Gully

Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology

Department of Planning and Local Government

Department of Trade and Economic Development

Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Flinders University

Regional Development Australia – Adelaide

Victoria

Department of Planning and Community Development

Cardinia Shire Council

Growth Areas Authority

Hume City Council

Melton Shire Council

Mitchell Shire Council

Monash University

Regional Development of Australia – West Melbourne

Regional Development Australia – Northern Melbourne

Regional Development Australia – Southern Melbourne

RMIT University

University of Melbourne

VicUrban

Wyndham City Council

Western Australia

Armadale Redevelopment Authority

Curtin University

Department of Local Government

Department of Planning

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Department of Housing

Department of Transport

East Perth Redevelopment Authority

Landcorp

Midland Redevelopment Authority

Public Transport Authority

Western Australian Local Government Association

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio
Budget Estimates, May 2012

Program: Division or Agency: 2.2: SPAD   **Question**   054
                                                                  No:

Topic: Suburban Jobs Program –
                                    application process

Proof Hansard Page and Date   98

or Written Question: (22/5/12)

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: With that in mind, do you prioritise areas where Mr Quigley is going first? So you will be aware that they are having to spot this thing out in different parts of the country and the network, provided it is not ruined by a potential future government, will gradually mesh together until it covers the whole country. If I am a local government authority trying to create local jobs in the suburbs, was there any consideration by you folk about targeting areas where the NBN is going first? Does that make your life easier, or is it not looked at?

Mr Thompson: There are two things there, without going into the details of applications that were received, which I know you will appreciate we cannot really talk to. One is the nature of the guidelines themselves. Following consultation in the development of the guidelines—and we did release draft guidelines for comment—the NBN component has been incorporated into the overarching program funding stream, because the feedback from potential proponents and more broadly recommended that substantial integrated projects were more likely to provide benefits than ones dedicated to or aligned along the NBN. The second part of answering that question is that we really left it up to proponents to demonstrate to us that they were seeking to take advantage of the NBN rollout or other broadband technologies which would be advantaged by the NBN rollout at a future time in the applications that they put to us. Summing up, the NBN element and the technology element of applications was one thing that we took into account.

Senator LUDLAM: Was it explicitly mentioned in some of the applications that you got?

Mr Thompson: I would have to take that on notice.

...

Senator LUDLAM: ...Is anybody in the sustainable communities program unit looking at the need for affordable commercial space across suburbs in growth areas? There are suburbs that have been rolled out that do not have footpaths, because it is assumed you drive everywhere, and do not have so much as a corner shop, because it is assumed you will drive to the local megaplex 20 kilometres over the horizon. That makes commercial affordable space a potentially limiting factor for suburban jobs. Is that factored in it all?

Mr Thompson: No, I do not think it is.

Senator LUDLAM: That is going to be tricky. Are you working with the major cities unit in Minister Albanese's portfolio?

Mr Thompson: Yes, we are, quite closely. In fact, some colleagues from the major cities unit form part of the assessment panel that we put together for the projects.

Senator LUDLAM: Excellent. I suspect this might change your answer that you are not really looking at affordable commercial space. I suspect, on reflection, that part of the agenda of the MCU or of distributing jobs across suburban areas, where they are very sparse at the moment, is just that—to create or redistribute affordable commercial space. I might ask you to take that on notice and see if that can be made a priority, if it is not already.

Mr Thompson: I should say, too, that I may be misunderstanding your question, so I might not be answering it very clearly.

Answer:

A number of applications for funding under the Suburban Jobs Program included elements to demonstrate the employment opportunities of the National Broadband Network.

Consultation during the design of the program indicated that business attraction and retention is limited by a lack of affordable, quality office space in some areas.

The Suburban Jobs Program Guidelines allowed applicants to submit innovative place-based proposals that most appropriately addressed local issues, including capital works components such as the provision of commercial office space where relevant.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio
Budget Estimates, May 2012

Program: Division or Agency:	2.2: SPAD	**Question No:**	055

Topic: Sustainability Indicators – compatibility with private enterprises

Proof Hansard Page and Date 100

or Written Question: (22/5/12)

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: Maybe it is too early for you to tell me this but will the set of indicators that you are putting together be compatible with what the Green Building Council has already put together?

Mr McNee: Rather than hazard a guess, which it would be at this stage, I would be happy to take that on notice and come back with an assessment.

Senator LUDLAM: The Property Council recently launched their Make My Cities Work project. There you go. They appear to have beaten the Commonwealth to it as well. There is a set of quantifiable, measurable indicators particularly around big urban areas. It is quite a clever project. Is what you are putting together compatible with that?

Mr Thompson: Again, we would probably need to check that to be specific.

Answer:

The Green Building Council's *Green Star – Communities* rating tool and the Property Council's *Our Nation* application have each been developed for particular purposes, which are relevant to but distinct from the Australian Government's Measuring Sustainability program.

Green Star – Communities provides a framework for assessing new developments against a range of criteria to provide a star rating. Criteria take into account governance, design, liveability, economic prosperity, the environment and innovation.

Our Nation uses population projections to examine a range of scenarios, including potential demand for community services and supporting infrastructure.

The sustainability indicators have been developed under the Australian Government's Measuring Sustainability program to complement a range of existing government and non-government initiatives. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has met with representatives from both the Green Building Council and the Property Council a number of times during the development phase.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio
Budget Estimates, May 2012

Program: Division or Agency: 2.2: SPAD   **Question** 056
                                                                  No:

Topic: Renewable Energy Atlas

Proof Hansard Page and Date   101

or Written Question: (22/5/12)

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER: It was question No. 50. I asked about correspondence between your department and the other. The answer is that there is no formal correspondence but there were six emails. Aren't they correspondence? Can't I have a copy?

Mr Thompson: I think we were just being specific there. Whether you can have a copy of those emails I will have to take on notice.

Answer:

Copies of the six emails formed a part of a response from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency to a question (Question on Notice Number 83) from Additional Estimates, February 2012.