



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Senator the Hon Anne McEwen
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on the Environment,
Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator McEwen

On 9 February 2010 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts for an Additional Estimates hearing.

During the hearing, Senator Birmingham asked a question relating to the target of loans under the Green Loans program which appears on ECA 86 of the transcript. In response to the question, I indicated that there has been no change to the budget in this financial year in terms of what was announced in the budget papers.

I wish to advise that I intended to reiterate that there had been no change to the total budget for this program in terms of what was announced in the budget papers. My reference to this financial year was unintentional.

Further, in clarifying a response to Senator Milne and Senator Birmingham in relation to the target amount of Green Loans which appears on ECA 87, I indicated that there has been no change to the government's commitments in relation to the program or to the budget at this stage.

I wish to further clarify that consistent with my previous comment, the reference to "budget" was a reference to the total program budget.

Finally, on ECA 87 I indicated to the Committee that the average loan subsidy under the Green Loans program is just under \$2000.

I wish to advise that this number is an average if the maximum loan amount of \$10,000 is taken out. The average subsidy for loans already taken out under the program is \$1,570.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Thompson
Deputy Secretary

3 March 2010