

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and The Arts
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	87
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	REED – flow diagram of programs		
Hansard Page ECA:	82 (28/5/09)		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

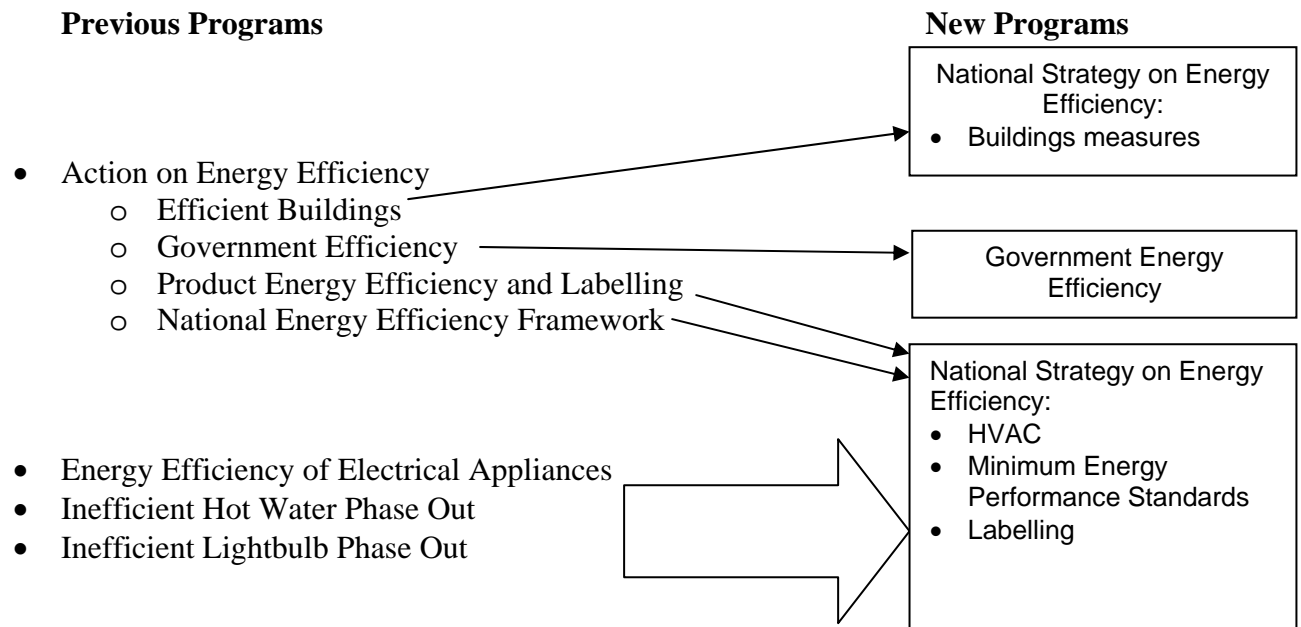
Senator BIRMINGHAM—As I said in the introduction, with the renaming, rebadging and establishment of new programs, there is plenty in there to keep us confused. I probably need you to have a white board or a flow diagram for me. Nonetheless we will try to plough on.

Mr Carter—We could provide a flow diagram for you.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—We will take that one on notice.

Answers:

Transition schematic



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Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	88
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Funding expended on promotion of abolished programs		
Hansard Page ECA:	83 (28/5/09)		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—What funds have been expended in promoting and developing materials and information around the abolished programs?

Mr OXLEY—We would have to take on notice the specific details around the promotion and communication of existing programs.

Answers:

Expenditure on communication related to the Action on Energy Efficiency, Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances, Hot Water Phase-Out and Inefficient Lighting Phase-Out programs from inception to date, totals approximately \$415,500. The activities requiring communications activity continue under the new program structure.

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Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome: 2 **Question No:** 89
Program: 2.1
Division/Agency: Renewables and Energy Efficiency
Division
Topic: Green Loans
Hansard Page ECA: 87 (28/5/09)

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM — To financial year 2011-12, what is the total?

Mr Keefe — It is \$143,843,192.

Senator BIRMINGHAM — That is quite precise. You said there is about \$14 million in department expenses.

Mr Keefe — That is correct, and roughly \$130 million administered.

Senator BIRMINGHAM — Are we able to break down those administered expenses into what you are budgeting for assessment costs versus bank costs?

Mr Carter — We would have that breakdown, but I am not sure that we have it with us. We can take that on notice.

Senator BIRMINGHAM — Could you come back and provide that? If we are taking that on notice, then provide that for a year-by-year perspective as well, which would be most helpful.

Answers:

Financial Year	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
Assessment ¹	5,050,000	18,500,000	27,250,000	27,250,000
Loan support ²	-	17,500,000	17,500,000	17,500,000

1. Assessment costs include: (a) costs associated with training, organising and administering assessors; (b) costs associated with the provision of assessment report logistics (printing, packing, posting); and (c) the cost of assessment services.
2. Loan support includes: (a) loan application support; and (b) loan interest subsidy.

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Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	90
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	87 (28/5/09)		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM — It seems unusual that you would not consult with Finance, particularly, in something that is quite an innovative program, as Mr Carter indicated earlier. This is the first time that the department of environment has been involved in going out and subsidising banks as lenders to individuals. Why would you not consult Treasury or, particularly, Finance?

Mr Keeffe — We certainly discussed with Finance the configuration of the program and in terms of the refocusing and reshaping, Finance were actively engaged in that. There was also discussion on the shape of the loans and the average of the loans, in terms of negotiating the rate that that was at. I know of no formal discussions with Finance and Treasury, but I am willing to take that on notice because a lot of this happened before I was engaged in the program.

Answers:

The allocation of funds to subsidise loans was subject to the usual rigours associated with securing costings agreement with the Department of Finance and Deregulation as part of the normal Budget processes. There was no additional discussion with the Department of Finance and Deregulation or the Treasury about the rate at which to set the subsidy within the total allocated funds.

However, the Department obtained relevant external expert advice on (a) the regulatory framework within which financial organisations operate as it relates to the proposed loan subsidy; (b) the design of the subsidy deed; and (c) the minimum commercial return required for financial organisations to participate.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	91
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	89 (28/5/09)		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Mr Carter — The estimate of abatement that I have got here—and I will have to check on it—is 0.33 megatonne CO₂ equivalent by 2020 of additional annual abatement.

...

Senator BIRMINGHAM — Why is the figure by 2020?

Mr Carter—I would have to take the detail of that on notice.

...

Senator BIRMINGHAM — If you could come back to me and tell me why 2020, in this instance, is the magical number for a program that runs for five years, that would be much appreciated.

Answers:

The year 2020 is commonly used by Government as a reference year to quantify long-term sustainable greenhouse abatement. For example: the 2008 Department of Climate Change publication *Tracking to the Kyoto Target* uses both the Kyoto period and 2020 as reference years to quantify expected emission abatement due to Government and industry action.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	92
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	89 (28/5/09)		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM — That is fine. I appreciate that it is not an unusual benchmark to be talked about. However, for a program that is expiring sooner, I would have thought that, in looking at the targets, I would like to get at least a rationale behind that, and also just to ensure that we are comparing apples with apples as to what the previous program was saving. With respect to the assumptions built into the savings that you are now suggesting, Mr Carter, of 0.33 megatonnes by 2020, is that purely generated from the loans or are those assumptions and that total built up by the assessments that have been provided and possible take-ups of other programs?

Mr Carter — I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure if that was taking into account any of the behaviour changes.

Answers:

Abatement calculations include those actions directly associated with the home sustainability assessment and the provision of tailored advice to the households, and those actions supported by the loan subsidy.

Abatement calculations do not include abatement wholly or partially due to other Australian Government programs. For example: abatement from renewable technologies such as solar hot water and photovoltaics is not included because that abatement is counted under the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target. Similarly, abatement from ceiling insulation that is also subsidised by the Energy Efficient Homes Package is not included in the Green Loans abatement estimate.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	93
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Solar systems – total funding		
Hansard Page ECA:	91 (28/5/09)		

Senator MILNE asked:

Senator MILNE—I would like to go to solar systems. You may need to take this on notice. I would be very interested to know, under all particular programs, what the total federal government funding for solar systems has been through the rural and remote program, plus R&D, commercialisation funds and so on. Would you be able to provide, on notice, an aggregate figure for the level of Commonwealth support for solar systems?

Mr Young—Certainly. We will take that on notice and consult with our colleagues in other departments who have also supported that company.

Answers:

Solar Systems have been paid a total of \$10.004 million for projects to date. The attached table refers.

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Solar Systems – Australian Government monies paid

	Location	Approved funding \$m	Funding program	Amount paid \$m
	<i>Completed projects</i>			
1	Umuwa (Pitlands)	1.000	RECP	1.000
2	Hermannsburg	0.913	RRPGP	0.913
3	Yuendumu	1.142	RRPGP	1.142
4	Lajamanu	1.370	RRPGP	1.370
5	Umuwa (Pitlands) upgrade	0.563	RRPGP	0.563
6	Windorah (grant contract with Ergon Energy)	1.000	RRPGP	0.800
	<i>Approved projects, part paid</i>			
7	Ti-Tree	1.140	RRPGP	0.274
8	Kalkarindji	1.140	RRPGP	0.274
9	Alekarenge	4.368	RRPGP	1.048
10	Bridgewater Heliostat pilot	4.500	APP	2.620
	TOTAL			10.004

RECP Renewable Energy Commercialisation Program
RRPGP Renewable Remote Power Generation Program
LETDF Low Emission Technology Development Fund
APP Asia-Pacific Partnership

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	94
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Advertising – Energy Efficiency Package		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. Is the “\$20 million for a business information package to provide advice to businesses on how the scheme will work and the impacts and opportunities that may arise” in addition to the \$51 million for a media campaign?
2. When, where and on what will this money be spent?
3. What other money is being spent on advertising/media campaigns of “business information” for this energy efficiency program?
4. How many one kilowatt solar panels do you estimate could be purchased with this advertising money?
5. How many houses could receive insulation fitted with this amount of advertising money?

Answer:

1. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has an allocation of \$24.3 million over 2008-09 and 2009-10 for a consumer information campaign to drive the roll-out of the Energy Efficient Homes Package. The communication is primarily focused on householders. However, a small component of the public relations effort will target relevant businesses, to assist the successful roll out of the package.

The \$24.3 million is included in the \$50.8 million allocated to information campaign activity across the entire Nation Building - Economic Stimulus Plan. The \$50.8 million allocation covers a number of Australian Government departments, and is much broader than just the ceiling insulation and solar hot water offers available under the Energy Efficient Homes Package.

2. The success of the Energy Efficient Homes Package is dependent on how widely the Energy Efficient Homes Package assistance is adopted.

Research shows that people want objective, reliable information from the Government about the offers available under the Energy Efficient Homes Package. Over the period of 2008-09 and 2009-10 the \$24.3 million will be used to conduct an Australia-wide measured public information campaign. It will be an integrated campaign including public relations and advertising.

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3. The consumer information campaign covered by the \$24.3 million allocation is the only advertising campaign being undertaken for the Energy Efficient Homes Package.
4. The Energy Efficient Homes Package of measures is demand-driven. Therefore, promotion of the availability of these measures is critical to their uptake and to program efficacy. Promotion is therefore critical to achieving residential sector energy savings, lower household energy bills, employment support in the energy efficiency sector and flow-on economic multiplier effects to the broader Australian economy.

A direct comparison of asset installations with promotional expenditure under the Energy Efficient Homes Package is inappropriate - it would not reflect the demand-driven nature of the program which requires effective promotion to ensure up-take by the community. However, the average installed cost (including retail price and installation costs) of a one kilowatt photovoltaic unit is estimated to be approximately \$12,000, so \$24.3 million would fully-fund approximately 2,000 installations.

5. As noted in the response to part 4 of Question on Notice 94, direct comparisons of promotional budgets for the Energy Efficient Homes Package with asset installation funding does not account for the critical importance of effective promotion for program efficacy. Direct comparisons should only be made with a package of measures including adequate promotional funding. However, as the Energy Efficient Homes Package provides a maximum of \$1,600 to fund ceiling insulation, \$24.3 million would fund insulation retro-fitting for approximately 15,000 homes.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	95
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. When and why did the government decide to cut \$125 million from the Green Loans program?
2. Has the government secured firm commitments from banks or other funds suppliers for the full amount of the program – now \$175 million? If so, please identify them and the terms of credit arrangements.

Answers:

1. The government decided to reduce funding for the Green Loans program as part of the 2009/10 Budget process. This decision was made after considering the impact of the Global Financial Crisis, the Energy Efficient Homes Package and its associated increase in support for household installation of insulation and solar hot water technologies.
2. Twelve financial institutions have signed a subsidy deed to offer subsidised Green Loans to eligible applicants. They are: AWA, Berrima District, Community First, Hunter United Employees', Maleny and District Community, MECU, New England, Old Gold, Satisfac Direct and Queensland Country Credit Unions, and Heritage Building Society. Those financial institutions have agreed to offer application fee free and interest free personal loans to eligible applicants to a maximum loan value of \$10,000 and a maximum loan period of four years.

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Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome: 2 **Question No:** 96
Program: 2.1
Division/Agency: Renewables and Energy Efficiency
Division
Topic: Green Loans
Hansard Page ECA: Written Question on Notice

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

The Government has promised that the first four years of repayments for the Green Loans will now be interest-free. How much, in dollar terms, would that actually save a household, given the current low rates?

Answers:

An assessment of the savings achieved by households that take up interest-free Green Loans is best made by comparison with equivalent personal loans available for the same purpose. The following table compares the interest rates and application fees published on the internet by four example organisations on 3 July 2009. The total savings figure represents the estimated saving expected for a \$10,000 Green Loan repaid in four years, not including standard service or account keeping fees.

	Commonwealth Bank	ANZ Bank	MECU	Community First CU
Interest rate	13.40%	13.40%	11.89%	12.75%
Application fee ¹	135	150	-	150
Interest on \$10,000 ²	2,680	2,680	2,378	2,550
Total savings	2,815	2,830	2,378	2,700

1. The application fee does not include account keeping fees and monthly service fees.
2. Interest is calculated on a straight line repayment plan with the principal repaid in 1641 days (4 years).

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	97
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. How much did the Government originally promise that the Green Loans would save in terms of emissions?
2. Given that the program has been cut from 200,000 households to 75,000 households, what figure is the Green Loans program now expected to save in terms of emissions?

Answers:

1. The media release of 13 May 2008 by Minister Garrett states; "Green Loans will provide people with easy access to practical household improvements that combined could reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by more than 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent every year."
2. The redesigned program, through the delivery of tailored advice to 360,000 households and the provision of support for an estimated 75,000 loans, is now expected to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by more than 330,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	98
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

What advertising, and at what cost, is proposed for the Green Loans program?

Answers:

The Green Loans program is designed to be promoted through partners delivering the two major elements: (a) the free home sustainability assessment service provided by accredited assessors; and (b) the interest free loan provided by registered financial institutions. Those partners have a commercial interest to promote their involvement in the program.

Direct Departmental Green Loans specific advertising is limited to the program website, related websites such as the online portal, the distribution of promotional material at community events such as home shows and sustainability festivals, and the distribution of printed materials by program partners and interested community organisations.

The program budget has an allocation of \$1.05m in total over five years to support the promotion of the program in partnership with assessors, financial institutions and community organisations, mostly through the production and distribution of printed materials.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	99
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. On what basis does the Government think it will actually find 75,000 households to take out loans, especially given that it is now almost giving away pink batts to almost anyone who wants them?
2. Has Treasury been consulted on whether the figures stack up?

Answers:

1. The availability of a ceiling insulation subsidy does not prevent Green Loans from being used to support the purchase of wall and floor insulation, hot water services, glazing and shading improvements, dual flush toilets, high efficiency lighting systems, rain water tanks, photovoltaic panels and many other environmentally beneficial energy efficient appliances and equipment.
2. These estimates were subject to the usual rigorous process requiring costings to be agreed with the Department of Finance and Deregulation prior to costings agreement as part of the Budget process. Treasury has the opportunity to scrutinize all proposals as part of this process.

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Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome: 2 **Question No:** 100
Program: 2.1
Division/Agency: Renewables and Energy Efficiency
Division
Topic: Green Loans
Hansard Page ECA: Written Question on Notice

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Please provide a breakdown of the departmental resources (staff and financial expenditure) provided to the administration and running of the program for the current financial year?

Answers:

	2008/09
Staffing ¹	\$997,153
Program development and administration ²	\$2,818,540

1. Staffing includes salaries and on costs budgeted for the 2008/09 financial year. This allocation covers the equivalent of eight actual staff.
2. Program development and administration includes program planning and design, stakeholder engagement, legal risk and privacy assessments, the development and production of guidelines and procedural documentation, appointment and assessment systems development, essential research, and the development of a program monitoring and evaluation plan.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	101
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Given that the Program was announced in May 2008, and Green Loans were to be available by early 2009, how many applications have actually been received, processed, approved and rejected? If none, why has there been a delay in rolling out the Green Loans program?

Answers:

Green Loan applications were not possible until the program commenced on 1 July 2009, after which households are able to receive the home sustainability assessment that must occur before a Green Loan application can be made.

The program was delayed to allow refocussing in light of the Energy Efficient Homes Package and potential implications of the Global Financial Crisis. Due to the complexity of the training, accreditation and contracting of assessors, the development of an appointment booking system, the development of a household environmental impact assessment calculator, the completion and implementation of detailed legal risk and privacy assessments, the development of communication materials and the negotiation of green loan agreements with financial institutions, the delay also allowed time for the testing of systems and procedures in regional trials.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	102
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Green Loans		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

With reference to the Minister's media release of 13 May 2008 which reads, in part, "*The investment the Rudd Labor Government is making today will also generate up to \$2.0 billion worth of green inspired investment in our economy, and benefit the small business sector.*" -

1. As the Green Loans Program has been running six months behind time, would you agree that it is highly unlikely the announcement of 13 May 2008 has generated \$2 billion worth of green inspired investment in our economy?
2. What estimate of investment does the Government now believe to have occurred?

Answers:

1. The media statement referred to the potential level of investment that would be made by households based on an estimated 200,000 loans and associated home sustainability assessments being undertaken over the full life of the program as announced in the 08/09 Budget.
2. The program is now expected to support around \$500 million in household investment.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	103
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Solar Schools – panels installed		
Hansard Page ECA:	30 (28/5/09)		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. How many schools have now had solar panels installed (as distinct from registering) under the National Solar Schools Program?
2. Please detail, by electorate, which schools, when the solar panels were installed and the cost.
3. Why is the number of schools receiving solar panels still so low, given there are approximately 10,000 schools across Australia?

Answers:

1. One hundred and six schools whose National Solar Schools funded projects include solar power systems have confirmed their solar panels have been installed at 23 July 2009. Many more schools are still awaiting installation or are in the process of having their solar power system installed.
2. Details of the schools, their electorates and the cost of each system are included in the attached table. We do not have specific information on the dates of installation at this time. This information is provided by each school as part of the detail of its final project report. Schools have six months from the date of approval to complete their project and submit their final report.
3. The National Solar Schools Program continues until the end of 2014-15. While over half of all eligible schools have registered with the program, only around twenty percent of these have submitted claims. Grants totalling more than \$21 million have already been approved to almost 500 schools. Schools have six months from the date of approval to complete and acquit their projects. We understand that many schools are delaying the installation of solar power systems to coincide with school holiday periods to minimise disruption to normal school activities. As well, many installers have a significant workload due to high take-up of other Australian Government programs.

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Senate Question 103 Part 3 - ATTACHMENT

Electorate	State	School	Total PV System Cost (GST Excl)
Canberra	ACT	St Francis of Assisi Primary School	\$50,000
Fraser	ACT	Radford College	\$72,896
Barton	NSW	St Dominic Savio School	\$39,646
Berowra	NSW	Mount St Benedict College	\$25,000
Blaxland	NSW	Malek Fahd Islamic School	\$100,000
Charlton	NSW	St Paul's High School	\$43,994
Chifley	NSW	Clare Catholic High School - Hassal Grove	\$20,900
Chifley	NSW	Holy Family Primary	\$27,273
Cowper	NSW	Coffs Harbour Christian Community School	\$50,000
Cowper	NSW	St Mary's Primary School	\$35,643
Cunningham	NSW	Illawarra Christian School	\$22,920
Gilmore	NSW	Carroll College Broulee	\$47,366
Gilmore	NSW	Nowra Christian School	\$50,000
Gilmore	NSW	St John the Evangelist Catholic High School	\$50,000
Gilmore	NSW	St Michael's Primary	\$50,000
Greenway	NSW	Mary Immaculate Primary	\$49,091
Greenway	NSW	St Mark's Catholic College - Stanhope	\$22,818
Greenway	NSW	Terra Sancta College	\$98,182
Hume	NSW	St Joseph's School	\$34,786
Lindsay	NSW	Our Lady of the Way - Emu Plains	\$49,791
Lindsay	NSW	St Paul's Grammar School Penrith	\$100,000
Macarthur	NSW	St Peter's Anglican School	\$50,000
Mackellar	NSW	Sydney Japanese School	\$47,707
Mitchell	NSW	St Bernadette's Primary - Castle Hill	\$36,191
Mitchell	NSW	The Hills Grammar School	\$100,000
New England	NSW	St Mary of the Angels School Guyra	\$49,668
Newcastle	NSW	Hunter Christian College	\$50,000
North Sydney	NSW	Wenona School Limited	\$50,000
Parramatta	NSW	St Bernadette's Primary - Lalor Park	\$31,000
Reid	NSW	St Patrick's Primary - Guildford	\$33,100
Riverina	NSW	Mater Dei Catholic Primary	\$45,441
Wentworth	NSW	Montessori East - Bondi	\$42,941
Lingiari	NT	Belyuen School	\$46,302
Solomon	NT	Palmerston High School	\$31,350
Blair	QLD	St Joseph's School	\$50,000
Bonner	QLD	Gumdale State School	\$20,000
Capricornia	QLD	Frenchville State School (Rockhampton)	\$20,000
Dawson	QLD	Eimeo Road State School	\$20,000
Fadden	QLD	Coombah State High School (Gold Coast)	\$20,000
Fadden	QLD	Silkwood Steiner School	\$50,000

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Griffith	QLD	Dutton Park State School	\$20,000
Groom	QLD	Christian Outreach College	\$49,964
Groom	QLD	Toowoomba Christian College	\$41,783
Herbert	QLD	Annandale State School (Townsville)	\$20,000
Hinkler	QLD	Pialba State School	\$20,000
Kennedy	QLD	Mount Isa Central State School	\$20,000
Leichhardt	QLD	Edge Hill State School (Cairns)	\$20,000
Longman	QLD	Bribie Island State High School	\$20,000
Maranoa	QLD	Charleville State School	\$20,000
Mcperson	QLD	Mudgeeraba Special State School	\$20,000
Petrie	QLD	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	\$49,964
Rankin	QLD	Kimberley Park State School (Logan)	\$20,000
Wide Bay	QLD	St Joseph's School, Murgon	\$46,044
Adelaide	SA	St Peter's College	\$49,570
Barker	SA	Angaston Primary School	\$44,730
Barker	SA	Good Shepherd Lutheran School	\$50,000
Barker	SA	Waikerie High School	\$33,494
Boothby	SA	Blackwood High School	\$31,930
Kingston	SA	Australian Technical College Adelaide South	\$50,000
Port Adelaide	SA	Endeavour College	\$50,000
Sturt	SA	St Peter's Collegiate Girls' School Inc	\$50,000
Bass	TAS	Australian Technical College, Northern Tasmania	\$31,356
Denison	TAS	Brent Street Primary School	\$33,194
Denison	TAS	Cosgrove High School	\$43,885
Franklin	TAS	St. James College	\$45,268
Aston	VIC	Lysterfield Primary School	\$48,599
Batman	VIC	St Gabriel's Parish Primary School	\$50,000
Batman	VIC	Westgarth Primary School	\$49,747
Bendigo	VIC	Maiden Gully Primary School	\$50,000
Bendigo	VIC	Specimen Hill Primary	\$49,150
Calwell	VIC	Good Samaritan Catholic Primary	\$49,994
Chisholm	VIC	Ashwood Secondary Colleague	\$49,999
Chisholm	VIC	Kerrimuir Primary School	\$50,000
Dunkley	VIC	Frankston East Primary	\$22,791
Dunkley	VIC	St Jude's Primary School	\$34,110
Dunkley	VIC	St Macartan's Primary Schools	\$50,000
Flinders	VIC	Red Hill Consolidated School	\$33,155
Fremantle	VIC	Christ the King School - Beaconsfield	\$50,000
Gippsland	VIC	Guthridge Primary School	\$49,288
Gippsland	VIC	Tyers Primary School	\$50,000
Goldstein	VIC	Beaumaris North Primary School	\$50,000
Gorton	VIC	Sunshine Heights Primary School	\$50,000
Higgins	VIC	Armadale Primary School	\$43,045
Higgins	VIC	De La Salle College	\$100,000
Indi	VIC	Harrietville Primary School	\$49,259

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Indi	VIC	Mansfield Primary School	\$50,000
Jagajaga	VIC	Bundoora Secondary College	\$49,767
Jagajaga	VIC	Greenhills Primary School	\$49,767
Kingston	VIC	Ilim College	\$50,000
Kooyong	VIC	Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School	\$24,784
La Trobe	VIC	Ferny Creek Primary School	\$49,767
La Trobe	VIC	Mater Christi College	\$50,000
Mallee	VIC	Mildura Senior College	\$50,000
Maribyrnong	VIC	Moonee Ponds West Primary School	\$50,000
Maribyrnong	VIC	St Therese's School	\$41,525
McMillan	VIC	Bunyip Primary School	\$44,568
McMillan	VIC	Drouin Secondary College	\$50,000
McMillian	VIC	Pakenham Springs Primary	\$50,000
Melbourne	VIC	Shelford Grammar School	\$50,000
Ports			
Murray	VIC	Numurkah Secondary College	\$50,000
Murray	VIC	St Mary's Echuca	\$47,304
Brand	WA	Mandurah Catholic College	\$87,209
O'Connor	WA	Albany Primary School	\$49,929
O'Connor	WA	Golden Hill Steiner	\$39,818
Perth	WA	St Michael's School - Bassendean	\$50,000
Tangney	WA	Castlereagh School	\$18,500

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	104
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Solar Schools – State authorities		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. What problems are being experienced with State authorities in relation to this program?
2. What action has the Minister personally undertaken to fast-track in response to these delays?

Answers:

1. The Department has had a positive response from state and territory government authorities in relation to the National Solar Schools Program.

The Department has recently entered into arrangements with education departments in five states (Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia) to cooperatively deliver the program over 2008-09 and 2009-10. These cooperative delivery arrangements will provide funding of almost \$40 million for more than 1,100 government schools. The arrangements will obtain the best value for money for schools, maximise education outcomes and simplify and streamline participation by individual schools.

The Department will work towards developing similar funding arrangements with the remaining jurisdictions in 2009-10.

2. As part of facilitating uptake of the program across government schools and developing cooperative delivery arrangements, the Minister has written to relevant ministers in a number of states.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	105
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Solar Schools – Renewable Energy Certificates		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. Has a decision been made about who is to receive the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) - i.e. will the value of these go to the school or to the State Government?
2. What is the total value of these RECs, broken down by state?
3. What has been the attitude of the State Government authorities to the RECs? Have they been part of the bargaining process? Does this continue to be a source of dispute?

Answers:

1. Yes. Any financial benefit associated with Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) created as a result of installing eligible items at an individual school will be used to achieve better value for money for eligible items installed and/or to purchase or install additional eligible items at that individual school. Where co-operative delivery agreements have been finalised with State Governments, the value of RECs must be used to achieve better value for money. In some cases, where agreed by the Department, this may include a capped contribution to the scheme's administration within that State.
2. The value of RECs cannot be calculated in advance. The total value of RECs is dependant on a range of factors, including the type of eligible measures installed, the RECs zone in which the installation occurs, and the market value of RECs at the time they are claimed or assigned.

Under the financial reporting requirements of cooperative delivery arrangements, the states and territories must include details of the financial value of RECs generated at each school and the purpose to which that financial value was put.

3. The Department's discussions with State Government authorities regarding RECs have been very positive. In developing cooperative delivery arrangements, all parties have been in agreement that the value of RECs should contribute towards achieving the objectives of the program.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	106
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Solar Homes - applications		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. How long is it now taking to process applications for solar rebates of up to \$8000 under the Solar Homes and Communities Plan?
2. What is the longest it has taken to process one of these applications and why?

Answers:

1. Payment of the rebate is made on the basis of installation reports relating to pre-approved systems. It takes on average five to six weeks to process installation reports and provide rebate payments, which is within the time specified in the Solar Homes and Communities Plan guidelines.
2. The longest time taken to process rebate payments was about 12 weeks at the end of 2008. While at the time there was a backlog due to resourcing being insufficient to deal with the increasing number of applications, delays were also due to dealing with non-compliant or inadequately completed installation reports.

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Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	107
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Solar Homes		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. What is the cost of the program for this financial year?
2. How many applications have been paid?
3. Has the Department ever provided advice to the Minister's office on the merits of imposing the means test on the \$8000 rebate?

Answers:

1. The rebate budget for the Solar Homes and Communities Plan (SHCP) for the 2008-2009 financial year was \$152.551 million.
2. From 1 July 2008 to 31 May 2009, 18,970 applications were processed for payment.
3. The Department provides advice to Government on a range of program and administrative issues relating to the SHCP.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	108
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Solar Homes - applications		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Please detail, month by month, applications received, applications approved and grants actually paid under the Solar Homes and Communities Plan since 1 January 2008.

Answers:

Please see the attached table of program statistics for the Solar Homes and Communities from 1 January 2008 until 31 May 2009.

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	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Aug 2008	Sep 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Total
Applications received	893	872	909	1354	1899	2325	2559	3178	3995	4220	3764	3588	2915	3764	4526	8583	28407	77751
Applications approved	555	843	458	867	965	1391	1289	1583	2352	3404	3707	3625	3328	4625	4199	5554	7097	45842
Rebates paid	303	425	305	510	537	857	913	482	631	951	714	1305	1097	1698	2207	3452	5520	21907

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	109
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Programs – existing and announced		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. What programs pursuing energy efficiency, water capture, re-use of efficiency, building regulation reporting and retro-fit uptake in solar technologies was:
 - (a) Existing at the time the Rudd government took office in Nov 2007
 - (b) In place or announced in last year's Budget, and
 - (c) In place or announced on 2009-10 Federal Budget.
2. How have the objectives and activities of discontinued programmes as a result of the 2008-09 and 2009-10 federal budgets have been carried forward in subsequent, replaced or enhanced programmes?
3. Will the Department in table form:
 - (a) Provide a detailed account of how the above activities, initiatives and programmes that have been discontinued, have been included in, or carried forward within subsequent programmes
 - (b) Provide a detailed account of programs that have been discontinued and funding has not been carried forward in some way, and
 - (c) Provide a detailed account of the abandoned objectives and activity and financial value of savings to the Commonwealth.

Answers:

1. (a) Extant in November 2007:
 - Low Emissions Technology and Abatement
 - Greenhouse Challenge Plus
 - Local Greenhouse Action
 - Action on Energy Efficiency
 - Strategic National Response
 - Low Emission Technology Demonstration Fund
 - Solar Cities
 - Wind Forecasting
 - Advanced Electricity Storage
 - Alternative Fuels Conversion Program
 - Solar Homes and Communities Plan
 - Renewable Remote Power Generation Program

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- Renewable Energy Equity Fund
- Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program
- Phase Out of Incandescent Light Bulbs
- Small Business and Household Action Initiative
- Solar Hot Water Rebate
- Community Water Grants
- Scouts Australia 100 Year Anniversary Rainwater Tank Grant (water capture)
- Water Smart Australia (water capture)

(b) Extant or announced in 2008-09 Budget

- all programs listed in (a) above except the following:
 - Low Emissions Technology Demonstration Fund;
 - Wind Forecasting;
 - Advanced Electricity Storage.(The above programs transferred to the Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio)
- Alternative Fuels Conversion Program (terminated 30 June 2008).

New 2008-09 measures

- Green Loans
- Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances (10 Star Appliance)
- One Stop Green Shop
- Low Emission Plan For Renters
- National Solar Schools Program
- Hot Water System Phase Out
- The National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative (water capture)
- Green Precincts Fund – announced (energy efficiency, water capture, re-use of efficiency, retrofit uptake of solar technologies)
- National Water and Security Plan for Cities and Towns (water capture)
- National Urban Water and Desalination Plan (water capture, uptake of solar technologies)

New measure at Supplementary Additional Estimates 2008-09

- Homeowner Insulation

(c) Extant or announced 2009-10 Budget

- programs listed in (b) except the following programs which lapsed 30 June 2009:
 - Low Emissions Technology and Abatement
 - Challenge Plus
 - Local Greenhouse Action
 - Action on Energy Efficiency
 - Strategic National Response (DEWHA component only)

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2009-10 measures

- National Energy Efficiency Initiative
- Implementing Energy Efficiency Labelling
- Expansion of Minimum Performance Standards
- Minimum Energy Performance - Residential Buildings
- Mandatory Disclosure - Residential Buildings
- Mandatory Disclosure - Commercial Buildings
- Improvements to Building Code of Australia
- Implementation of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning High Efficiency Systems Strategy
- Commercial Building Ratings Tool
- Strengthening Basin Communities (water capture)
- Stormwater harvesting and reuse under the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan

2.

Greenhouse Challenge Plus – Scheduled to lapse June 2009. Key elements have been superseded by National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (Department of Climate Change) and Climate Change Action Fund. Part of program streamlining in response to Wilkins Review recommendations.

Local Greenhouse Action – Scheduled to lapse June 2009. Superseded by Climate Change Action Fund which will provide targeted assistance to local government, community and businesses. Part of program streamlining in response to Wilkins Review recommendations.

Action on Energy Efficiency – Program elements have transitioned to the new program structure under the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency, inclusive of objectives and resources – some elements have been superseded by other programs. Please see response to Question on Notice 87 for a transition schematic; see response to Question on Notice 111 for a detailed description of the transition of program elements.

Low Emissions Technology and Abatement – Scheduled to lapse June 2009. Part of program streamlining in response to Wilkins Review recommendations. Key community and business engagement elements will be delivered under the Climate Change Action Fund. Support for the renewables sector will continue to be provided by the expanded Renewable Energy Target (Department of Climate Change) and incorporation throughout the economy of a carbon price premium via the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (Department of Climate Change).

Strategic National Response – DEWHA component terminating, Department of Climate Change component is ongoing.

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Sustainable Transport – DEWHA secretariat services to the Travel Demand Management sub-committee of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC). Travel Behaviour Change/Travel Demand Management were elements of sustainable transport activities in the EPHC Standing Committee strategic plan. The Travel Behaviour Change (TBC) Working Group of EPHC had been working closely with the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Working Group (CCWEEWG) of the Australian Transport Council (ATC) to develop a work program for TBC. With the EPHC Standing Committee's agreement that the work of the TBC Working Group was best overseen by the ATC, the ATC is expected to pursue the TBC work through its renamed Environment Working Group.

Alternative Fuels Conversion – Scheduled to lapse June 2008. Program goal of more environmentally friendly vehicle transport continues to be reflected in the Green Vehicle Guide (greenvehicleguide.gov.au) (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government) and the Green Car Innovation Fund (Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research).

3. (a)-(b)

For details of the transition of program elements to the new program structure, please see the responses to Parts 1 and 2 above and responses to Questions on Notice 87, 110 and 111. A tabular presentation would not add further value to the aggregate information provided on this issue.

(c) A tabular summary of budgets for lapsing, terminating and new energy efficiency programs is provided below:

Savings from cessation of Lapsing Programs

	\$m
Low Emissions Technology and Abatement	7.000
Local Greenhouse Action*	12.888
Strategic National Response	4.680
Action on Energy Efficiency	25.768
Greenhouse Challenge Plus*	11.736
Total	<u>62.072</u>

* In relation to Greenhouse Challenge Plus (\$11.736m) and Local Greenhouse Action (\$12.888m), the Climate Change Action Fund (\$2.75 billion) will provide resources for most key superseding program elements for these two lapsing programs and others are already funded separately e.g. National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme.

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Savings from early cessation of Terminating Programs

	\$m
Small Business and Household Action Initiative	6.794
Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances	12.002
Phase out of inefficient light globes	4.409
Total	23.205
Total savings from Lapsing and Terminating Programs	85.277

The following are energy efficiency measures arising from rationalisation of climate change measures announced in the 2009-10 Budget:

	\$m
Implementing Energy Efficiency Labelling	18.278
Expansion of Minimum Performance Standards	16.606
Minimum Energy Performance Requirement- Residential Buildings	8.668
Mandatory Disclosure of Sustainability Performance of Residential Buildings	7.764
Expanded coverage of Mandatory Disclosure of Energy Performance of Commercial Buildings	5.309
Building Standards - Improvements to the Building Code of Australia	3.301
Implementing of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning High Efficiency Systems Strategy	2.035
Commercial Building Rating Tools	2.598
Total	64.559

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	110
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Action on Energy Efficiency - administration		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. What financial costs were incurred to develop, resource and promote the Action on Energy Efficiency Program?
2. How many departmental staff were involved with the running and administration of the program?
3. What funding has been provided through this program? How many applications did this funding program attract?

Answers:

1. From program inception in 2004-05 to 30 April 2009, total actual expenditure for teams delivering elements of Action on Energy Efficiency was approximately \$36.2 million.
2. Teams delivering elements of the Action on Energy Efficiency work program have adjusted staff numbers in response to the workload trajectory of individual program elements over the five year life of the program. Due to this variability, specifying a precise number of staff delivering program elements at any one time over the program life is not possible. At any one time, approximately 40-60 staff, including management and consultants, have been members of teams delivering elements of the Action on Energy Efficiency agenda.
3. Action on Energy Efficiency does not facilitate funding for projects or activities outside Government nor incorporate applications for funding.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	111
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Action on Energy Efficiency - administration		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. How are the replacement programs different from the Action on Energy Efficiency Program, and what elements of the terminated program, staffing and public policy research and development will be embraced in the replacement program?
2. With the program being replaced by at least six other programs, where is the \$25.8 million of savings coming from?
3. What is the direct translation of the terminating program elements, policy objectives and resources into the replacement programs?

Answers:

1. Action on Energy Efficiency measures and corresponding resources have been rolled over into the new, differently described, set of energy efficiency measures, excluding elements superseded by other programs, as outlined in the answer to Question on Notice 87. Where program elements have moved to the new program structure, this has included a transfer of the associated staff resources and is inclusive of the policy objectives of the former programs.
2. \$25.8m was the provisional funding estimate for Action on Energy Efficiency from 2009-10 to 2012-13. This funding has been replaced by the funding under the new program structure.
3. Please refer to the answer to question 1. A number of the measures under the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency are expansions or accelerations of existing initiatives under the National Framework on Energy Efficiency (NFEE).

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Programs previously administered by DEWHA (that are now incorporated into new measures):

- Action on Energy Efficiency
 - Efficient Buildings
 - Government Efficiency
 - Product Energy Efficiency and Labelling
 - Finance Facilitation for Energy Efficiency
 - Energy Reporting (superseded by National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme – Department of Climate Change)
 - Sustainable Transport (terminated – see response to Question on Notice 109)
- Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances
- Hot Water Phase Out
- Lighting Phase Out

Non-building related activities delivered by DEWHA under terminating programs will be delivered via three new NSEE programs:

- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning High Efficiency Systems Strategy (HVAC)
- Minimum Performance Standards for Appliances & Equipment – Expansion
- Labelling:
 - Lighting Phase Out
 - Hot Water Phase Out
 - Other labelling

Building related activities delivered by DEWHA are to be delivered by five new NSEE buildings measures:

- Energy Efficiency for Residential Buildings – Enhancement (Building Code)
- Energy Efficiency for Residential Buildings – Mandatory Disclosure
- Energy Efficiency for Commercial Buildings – Enhancement (Building Code)
- Energy Efficiency for Commercial Buildings – Mandatory Disclosure
- Commercial Building Rating Tools – Enhancement

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Three elements of Action on Energy Efficiency have been superseded by other programs

- Energy Reporting – Superseded by the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (Department of Climate Change).
- Finance Facilitation for Energy Efficiency – This program provided information to the community regarding corporate sustainability reporting (or 'triple bottom line' reporting). Program lead was transferred to Treasury.
- Sustainable Transport – Secretariat services to the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) Travel Behaviour Change (TBC) Working Group. In April 2009, the EPHC Standing Committee ceased its membership of the TBC Working Group. The Australian Transport Council (ATC) is expected to continue TBC work through its Environment Working Group. DEWHA will continue to monitor national and international best practice for traditional and emerging fuels in order to support ambient air quality objectives and improve the fuel efficiency of Australia's motor vehicle fleet.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	112
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewable Energy & Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances Program		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. What financial costs were incurred to develop, resource and promote the Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances Program,
2. How many departmental staff were involved with the running and administration of the program?
3. How much funding has been provided through this program?
4. How many applications did this funding program attract?

Answers:

1. The Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances program was intended to develop and implement the 10 star energy rating label and develop the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) program. Expenditure to the end of the financial year 2008-09 was \$1.835m.
2. This work was integrated with the work of existing staff employed on the Action on Energy Efficiency Program with an additional two dedicated staff allocated to GEMS.
3. No funding has been provided – this was not a grant/rebate program.
4. No applications received – this was not a grant/rebate program.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	113
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewable Energy & Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances Program		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. How is the replacement program different from the Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances Program and what elements of the terminated program, staffing and public policy research and development will be embraced in the replacement program?
2. What is the direct translation of the terminating program elements, policy objectives and resources into the replacement programs?

Answers:

- 1-2. The replacement program encompasses all existing activities and builds upon them. Please refer to the response to question 87.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	114
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewable Energy & Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances Program		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

In his media release of 13 May 2008 the Minister said over the next four years the Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances Program would 'help reduce greenhouse gas emissions'.

1. How much greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced under the scheme to date?
2. How much domestic energy use has been reduced due to this current scheme?
3. By how much are greenhouse gas emissions likely to be reduced under the scheme before it is terminated at the end of this financial year?

Answers:

- 1-3.No greenhouse gas emission reductions or reductions in domestic energy use can be attributed to this program because it was in a preparatory phase up until termination. Reductions would be anticipated following implementation, now within the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency suite of programs.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	115
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Hot water system phase-out		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much Departmental resourcing was provided to implement, run and administer the Hot Water System Phase Out Program?
2. Were extra staff employed by the Department to administer this program?
3. Who from the Department was tasked with running the program?
4. What financial assistance was provided to promote this program and how was it promoted?
5. What was the uptake of this program?
6. What were the actual financial costs incurred by the Department to develop, resource and promote the Hot Water Systems Phase Out Program, and how many departmental staff were involved with the running and administration of the program?

Answers:

1. There was no appropriation for this program. Funding was provided from within existing departmental resources.
2. Two extra staff have been employed to implement the program.
3. The hot water system phase out is being implemented by the Appliance Energy Efficiency Branch.
4. No funding has been expended on program promotion to date. This is because the program is still in a development stage.
5. The implementation phase of the program is not scheduled to commence until 2010. Thus, there has been no uptake to date.
6. Departmental expenditure on the hot water system phase out during the 08/09 financial year was \$536,400 noting that additional resourcing was integrated into existing staff resources.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	116
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Hot water system phase-out		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

How much funding and assistance has been provided through this program? How many applications did this funding program attract?

Answers:

Refer to answers for questions on notice 87 and 115.

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Outcome:	2	Question No:	117
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	Hot water system phase-out		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. How is the replacement Energy Efficiency Labelling – Enhancement Measure different from the energy Hot Water Systems Phase Out Program, and what elements of the terminated program, staffing and public policy research and development will be embraced in the replacement program?
2. What is the direct translation of the terminating program elements, policy objectives and resources into the replacement programs?

Answers:

1-2. Refer to answers for questions on notice 87 and 115.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and The Arts
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	118
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	National Energy Efficiency Initiative – implementation study		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Given the National Energy Efficiency Initiative is subject to an implementation study,

1. What are the time frames for the implementation study?
2. When is the study expected to commence?
3. Who will be involved in carrying out the implementation study?
4. What financial and other resourcing will be provided to implement the study?

Answers:

1. A tender opportunity for a consultant to work on the implementation study was advertised on AusTender and closed on 23 June 2009. The final report from the consultant is due by 25 August 2009.
2. 6 July 2009.
3. Consultants McKinsey and Company, Pacific Rim Incorporation, were chosen to work with Departmental staff after an evaluation of responses to the AusTender process.
4. The Department is presently negotiating with the Department of Finance and Deregulation to secure appropriate resources to support the study.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and The Arts
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	119
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	National Energy Efficiency Initiative – implementation study		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What will be the eligibility criteria for this \$100 million grant?
2. How will the grant applications be accessed and who will access the applications?
3. What environmental regulations will have to be met for the successful grant applicant to receive funding through this program?
4. How will the emissions that will be produced during the construction of the successful project be offset to ensure the successful project is carbon neutral?

Answers:

1. The eligibility criteria will be developed by the consultant undertaking the implementation study, in consultation with industry and stakeholders. These will be approved by government.
2. Documentation to assist interested parties to prepare applications to undertake the National Energy Efficiency Initiative funding will be made publicly available.
3. The successful applicant would need to demonstrate compliance with all relevant Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government legislation.
4. A requirement of the successful bid will include provision of data on expected energy and emissions savings.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and The Arts
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	120
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	National Strategy on Energy Efficiency		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How will the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency streamline the ‘Australian Government’s climate change programs and making energy efficient choices even easier’, when the programs being replaced are in existence and operating?
2. When will the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency come ‘online’?

Answers:

1. The National Strategy on Energy Efficiency is a comprehensive ten year strategy to accelerate energy efficiency improvements for householders and businesses across all sectors of the economy. It extends beyond a re-commitment to existing measures, which have mostly to date been delivered through the National Framework on Energy Efficiency under the Ministerial Council on Energy. Those measures which began under the National Framework on Energy Efficiency now involve an acceleration and/or expansion of their scope, and thus their expected contribution to assisting Australia’s transition to a low carbon economy.
2. The Council of Australian Governments signed the National Partnership Agreement on Energy Efficiency and agreed to its accompanying National Strategy on Energy Efficiency on 2 July 2009. Specific measures within the strategy will be commenced according to their particular implementation requirements.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and The Arts
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	121
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	National Strategy on Energy Efficiency – media release		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

With reference to the Minister's media release of 12 May 2009 "Streamlining the Australian Government's climate change programs and making energy efficient choices even easier":

1. How many of these measures are actually new and how many of these measures are initiatives that have been previously announced, terminated and simply repackaged and branded Budget 2009-10?

Answers:

The budget media release "Streamlining the Australian Government's climate change programs and making energy efficient choices even easier" identifies funding for eight key elements of the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency. These are designed to generate substantial growth in the number of highly energy efficient homes and buildings, provide a clear road map to assist Australia's residential and commercial building sector to adapt, and provide nationally consistent energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment within a process that enables industry to adjust to increasingly stringent standards over time.

Key elements of the energy efficiency labelling and minimum energy performance standards measures are being leveraged from previous programs and significantly expanded in scope to include a wider range of products, further raise minimum performance standards, and provide a greater degree of national consistency in standards. The majority of residential and commercial buildings measures are either new or significant expansions of recent government policies. Specifically, the new measures are: improvements to the Building Code of Australia requirements for commercial buildings, commercial building rating tools, and increasing energy efficiency requirements for residential buildings.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and The Arts
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2009

Outcome:	2	Question No:	122
Program:	2.1		
Division/Agency:	Renewables and Energy Efficiency Division		
Topic:	National Strategy on Energy Efficiency – Regulatory Impact Analysis		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

1. Given various elements of measures in the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency are subject to a Regulatory Impact Analysis, when and by whom will this Regulatory Impact Analysis be undertaken?
2. If the Regulatory Impact Analysis delivers an unfavourable report, will the programs that have been re-packaged to form this strategy be re-formed in their previous state?

Answers:

1. All those elements of measures that propose a regulatory change will be subject to thorough regulatory impact analysis. The timing of when these analyses will be undertaken varies for different measures. Likewise, the responsibility for undertaking the Regulatory Impact Analysis varies by measure. To the extent these timings and responsibilities are known they are identified in the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency attachment to the National Partnership Agreement on Energy Efficiency agreed by COAG on 2 July.
2. Where regulatory impact analyses are required in the development of measures, the outcomes of these analyses may affect how, or in some cases whether, the measures are implemented. Measures may be amended in light of these assessments.