

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
2006-07 Additional Budget Estimates Hearing
15 & 16 February 2007

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: *ACIS Program*

REFERENCE: Hansard 16/2/07, Page E18

QUESTION No. AI-25
(Hansard 16/2/07, Page E18)

Senator CARR asked:—I would like to turn now to the ACIS program. Mr Clarke, are you the lead officer here?

Mr P Clarke—Yes, if you are talking about policy.

Senator CARR—I am talking about the Mitsubishi issue. Last time we were discussing Mitsubishi and whether or not they had received funding under ACIS. We had a discussion about whether information about funding for individual firms could be released. The department's view in relation to Mitsubishi was that such information could be released from ACIS under stage II but not stage I. Is that correct? Have I summarised our discussion accurately?

Mr P Clarke—More or less. The minister may release information on funding under ACIS I. There is a provision in the ACIS Act that allows that.

Senator CARR—On this basis, will information be made available for stage II recipients?

Mr P Clarke—The section says that the minister may do it. It is really up to the minister how he chooses to do that.

Senator CARR—Has the minister expressed a view on how he intends to implement that section of the act?

Mr P Clarke—I am not sure that we have asked him that question.

Senator CARR—You will have to now because I am going to ask for a list of participants in ACIS stage II and how much they have received. Can you provide that information for the first year of ACIS stage II—that is, for 2005?

Mr P Clarke—2005 was ACIS stage I.

Senator CARR—Were no funds made available for the 2005 period?

Mr P Clarke—ASIC stage I is not subject to the amendment that enables the minister to make a statement. It would be for ASIC stage II, starting 1 January 2006.

ANSWER

Under the *ACIS Administration Act 1999*, decisions to publish funding information for ACIS Stage II recipients are for the Minister. He has advised that he does not propose to publish.