

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: *Low Emissions Technology Demonstration Fund*

REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTION

QUESTION No. AI-54

Senator EVANS asked:— In relation to the application to this fund, did the Department assess those applications and then provide recommendations to the Minister on what projects might be funded?

ANSWER

Probity, due diligence and technical advisers were contracted by the department to assist with the assessment process. An expert panel assessed the merit of applications and then provided their recommendations to the two responsible Ministers, the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP and the then Minister for Environment and Heritage, Senator the Hon Ian Campbell.

QUESTION No. AI-55

Senator EVANS asked:— On what date did the Department conclude its assessment of the applications?

ANSWER

The expert panel concluded its main assessment meeting on 14 July 2006. Additional Information was sought from applicants after that date.

QUESTION No. AI-56

Senator EVANS asked:— On what date were those recommendations provided to the Minister?

ANSWER

The Chair of the expert panel presented the panel's report to Minister Macfarlane and the then Minister Campbell on 8 August 2006. Further advice following requests for additional information was provided on 27 November 2006. The panel's advice was also provided to the then Minister Campbell.

QUESTION No. AI-57

Senator EVANS asked: On what date did the Minister sign off on those recommendations?

ANSWER

Minister Macfarlane signed off on the first five successful projects on 28 September 2006 and the sixth project on 28 November 2006. The then Minister Campbell also signed off the projects on 6 October 2006 and 1 December 2006 respectively.

QUESTION No. AI-58

Senator EVANS asked: What is the Department's estimate on when funds will first actually be spent (as opposed to committed) through this fund, i.e. what year?

ANSWER

It is anticipated that the first payments will be made by the Department of Environment and Water Resources in the 2007-08 financial year.

QUESTION No. AI-59

Senator EVANS asked: What is the Department's current estimated funding profile for this Fund in the out-years?

ANSWER

The funding profile will not be known until the schedules to the Funding Deeds, which detail project milestones, are finalised. The program may operate until 2019-20. Funding for the program is appropriated to the Department of Environment and Water Resources, which will be responsible for profiling.

