

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Australian Space Science Program

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: AI-31

In respect to **Australian Space Science Program:**

- a. What is the stated purpose of program?
- b. When did the program commence and when is it scheduled to end?
- c. How much money has been budgeted for the program for each year of the program?
- d. How much funds have been spent to-date on the program for each year of the program?
- e. Is the program on schedule and on budget?
- f. How are funds appropriated to the program allocated?
- g. Is spending under the program subject to guidelines and/or ministerial decision?
- h. If there are no guidelines governing spending how is it governed?
- i. Have all funds been allocated in accordance with the guidelines.
- j. Where ministerial approval of payments is required – have any payments or amount of payment been made, or not made, contrary to Departmental recommendations?
- k. Is the Department aware of any situation where funds have not been spent in accordance with the guidelines or any other requirement regarding the use of the funds?
- l. Has any situation arisen requiring the recovery by the Government of funds paid by the government?
- m. What amount has the Department spent in administering the program in each of the years of the programs operation?

ANSWER

- a. The Australian Space Science Program (ASSP) has two elements, The Space Policy Unit (the Unit) and the Australian Space Research Program (ASRP).

The Unit was established on 1 July 2009. It is the central point of contact and coordination for all of Australia's national and international civil space activities. The unit also has responsibility for developing a National Space Policy and delivery of the ASRP.

The objective of the ASRP is to develop Australia's niche space capabilities by supporting space-related research, innovation and skills in areas of national significance or excellence.

Further information is publicly available at

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/General/Corporate/Pages/TheAustralianSpaceScienceProgram.aspx>

b. The ASSP has funding from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013.

c.

	2009-10 (GST exclusive)	2010-11 (GST exclusive)	2011-12 (GST exclusive)	2012-13 (GST exclusive)	TOTAL (GST exclusive)
Total ASSP (departmental & administered)	6,426,000	12,941,000	14,136,000	15,090,000	48,593,000
ASRP Grants	4,790,000	11,190,000	12,190,000	12,190,000	40,360,000

d.

	2009-10 (GST exclusive)	2010-11 (GST exclusive)	2011-12 (GST exclusive)	2012-13 (GST exclusive)	TOTAL (GST exclusive)
ASRP Grant commitments*	4,790,000	1,784,035	2,770,744	1,599,637	10,944,416
Program administration expense	353,675	-	-	-	353,675

*Note: Funds included in ASRP profile are funds that have been committed but are yet to be spent.

Funds spent by the Unit were in large part for salaries, with some funding spent on normal departmental activities such as travel and administration costs.

e. Yes

f. Four competitive grant rounds are expected to be held. Round 1 has just been completed. Applications are assessed by an independent assessment panel which was appointed by Minister Carr. Grants are approved by the Departmental Program Delegate.

g. The ASRP is governed by Program Guidelines which are available at http://www.innovation.gov.au/Industry/Space/Documents/ASRP_Guidelines_October_2009.pdf

h. Not applicable.

i. Yes.

j. Not applicable.

k. No.

l. No.

m. At 31 January 2010, \$353,675 had been spent on the administration of the program.