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: Clean Business Australia

REFERENCE: Written Question - Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: AI- 33

In respect to Clean Business Australia – Climate Ready Program:
(1) What is the stated purpose of program?
(2) When did the program commence and when is it scheduled to end?
(3) How much money has been budgeted for the program for each year of the program?
(4) How much funds have been spent to-date on the program for each year of the program?
(5) Is the program on schedule and on budget?
(6) How are funds appropriated to the program allocated?
(7) Is spending under the program subject to guidelines and/or ministerial decision?
(8) If there are no guidelines governing spending how is it governed?
(9) Have all funds been allocated in accordance with the guidelines?
(10) Where ministerial approval of payments is required – have any payments or amount of payment been made, or not made, contrary to Departmental recommendations?
(11) 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?
(12) Has any situation arisen requiring the recovery by the Government of funds paid by the government?
(13) What amount has the Department spent in administering the program in each of the years of the programs operation?

ANSWER

(1) This information is publicly available at
www.innovation.gov.au/Section/AboutDIISR/FactSheets/Pages/CleanBusinessAustralia.aspx
Clean Business Australia supports a range of activities aimed at improving our energy and water efficiency and increasing sustainability, with a focus on productivity and innovation. The *Climate Ready* component is a competitive grants program which aims to support the development and commercialisation of innovative products, processes and services that address the effects of climate change.

(2) The program commenced 2008-2009 and ends 2011-2012.

(3) Administered budget

Year	Amount (ex GST)
2008-09	15,913,000
2009-10	37,570,000 (from PBS page 41, PAES page 18)

2010-11	18,490,000 (from PBS page 41, PAES page 18)
2011-12	6,527,000 (from PBS page 41, PAES page 18)

(4) In 2008-09, Administered expenditure was $15.913 million. In 2009-10 to 31 January 2010, Administered expenditure was $24.630 million.

(5)As at 31 January 2010 the program is on schedule but is not on budget.

(6) The program is fully committed and closed to new applications. The program is a competitive grants scheme. Eligible applications were assessed by Innovation Australia's Climate Ready Committee, an independent expert panel. Committee recommendations were provided to the Program Delegate for final decision.

(7) Program Guidelines set out the eligibility and merit criteria for the Climate Ready Program. The legislation underpinning the Climate Ready Program - the Industry Research and Development Act 1986 (Cth) - specifically prevents the Minister from being involved in the consideration of individual applications. Information is publicly available at: http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/InnovationandRandD/CleanBusinessAustralia/Pages/CleanBusinessAustralia.aspx

(8) Answered above.

(9) Yes.

(10) Not Applicable.

(11) No.

(12) Yes. Companies supported under Climate Ready are paid quarterly in advance and may conclude the project without needing all the funding provided. Any funding paid that has not been acquitted is required to be repaid at the conclusion of the project.

(13) In 2008-09 the Departmental allocation was $0.842 million. In 2009-10 it is $1.331 million.