

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2010-11  
23 February 2011

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Green Building Fund

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Colbeck

**QUESTION No.:** AI-76

1. Will the NABERS reports for projects under the Green Building Fund be made available publicly? If not, why not?
2. One of the Government's 2010 election promises was that it would commit another \$30 million to the Green Building Fund during 2010-11. Then that got changed to \$30 million over three years. What is now the timeframe over which these grants are scheduled to be paid?
3. What work does the Department do to satisfy itself that the necessary post-construction activity occurs in these buildings – in terms of what some in the building industry call 'aftercare support'?
4. Is there a requirement on those responsible for the projects to keep a log (including for AusIndustry) of defects and problems experienced in the building during or after the work on the projects?
5. What records are kept of maintenance that is needed during or after work on the projects?
6. Have any of the grant recipients notified the Department and/or the Minister's office of any kinds of problems in meeting the deadlines since 30 September 2010, or sought any extensions to those deadlines? If yes, how many?

**ANSWER**

1. Following project completion all grantees are required to monitor energy usage for 12 months and provide an independent National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) report identifying actual green house gas savings achieved. NABERS reports are just beginning to be provided for projects from early rounds of the program. These reports are part of the administration of the program. They are not for public dissemination. They will form part of an evaluation of the program outcomes once the program has concluded.
2. Four years.
3. Applications for a Green Building Fund grant are assessed against three merit criteria, including Criterion 3 – Project Design and Management, which includes appropriate commissioning processes and the establishment of systems to optimise and maintain the project outcomes. Commissioning of plant and equipment is typically undertaken during the course of the project, and

following project completion all grantees are required to monitor energy usage for 12 months and provide an independent NABERS report identifying actual greenhouse gas emissions savings achieved.

4. No, not as part of the project conditions under the Green Building Fund. AusIndustry is not privy to the arrangements a Building Owner may have with its building contractors concerning the management of any building defects and the keeping of logs. AusIndustry's focus is on achieving project outcomes primarily savings in greenhouse gas emissions. Grantees are required to provide six monthly progress reports for the duration of the project, as well as an end of project report to demonstrate progress against milestones. Following project completion the grantee must also monitor energy usage for 12 months then provide an independent NABERS report on the level of greenhouse gas savings that have been achieved.

5. Please refer to Answer 4.

6. Nine requests to extend the project end date were received between 1 October 2010 and 31 January 2011.