

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2007-08  
28 May 2007

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

**TOPIC:** Portfolio Budget Statement issues – shifting spending

**REFERENCE:** Written Question

**QUESTION No. B1-27**

**Senator Campbell** asked:

Refer to page 28 of the PBS – a number of programs have their unspent monies pushed back:

1. COMET - \$600,000 in appropriations have been pushed back
2. Small Business Mentoring and Succession Program - \$1,055,000 in appropriations have been pushed back
3. Industry Cooperative Innovation Program - \$1,200,000 in appropriations have been pushed back
4. Pharmaceuticals Partnership Program - \$10,000,000 in appropriations have been pushed back

What has led to the grants being pushed back? Has there been insufficient uptake of the grants?

**ANSWER**

Although the Department requires companies to review their budgets on a regular basis, due to the technical uncertainty relating to projects, companies often spend at a rate slower than forecast and this results in less program funds being expended than committed. This subsequently results in the need for rephasing of some of the administered appropriation to out years. All programs have been well subscribed and the Department is satisfied with the uptake of grants.