

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
28 and 29 May 2012

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

**TOPIC:** Re-tooling for Climate Change

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Bushby

**QUESTION No.:** BI-131

1. In total, how many grants were approved under the Retooling for Climate Change program?
2. Were there any instances where contract offers were declined? If so, how many?
3. Were there any terminations of contracts under the program? If so, (a) how many; (b) how much funding in total was provided for those projects before funding for them ceased; and (c) how much funding in total was recovered from all of the money spent on the terminated projects?
4. Has AusIndustry conducted any auditing of individual projects under the program? If so, what were the reasons why those individual audits were undertaken and what were the findings?
5. Has a full formal audit or evaluation of the Retooling for Climate Change program either commenced or been completed? If so, when and what form has that audit or evaluation taken and what have been the findings (if any)? If not, is one planned and on what date will it begin?
6. What were the specific merit criteria against which applications were assessed?
7. Who approved each of the projects for funding? And what specific qualifications, technical expertise and experience did they possess that allowed them to suitably assess the quality and value of the kinds of activities being funded and their likely outcomes?

**ANSWER**

1. 100 grants were approved under the Re-tooling for Climate Change program.
2. Yes. Five contract offers were declined.
3. Yes. As at 31 May 2012, (a) five contracts have been terminated; (b) three of the projects received no funding and \$180,000 (GST exclusive) was provided for two of those projects before funding for them ceased; (c) \$100,000 (GST exclusive) was fully recovered from one project while \$80,000 (GST exclusive) remains the subject of debt recovery.
4. Compliance audits have been undertaken on a sample of grant customers as part of AusIndustry's strategic compliance plan. The purpose of those audits was to supplement other compliance activities including application assessment, contract reporting and independent audit certificates. Audit findings indicated existing compliance mechanisms were operating efficiently.

5. The Re-tooling for Climate Change program will be evaluated following its conclusion on 30 June 2012. The evaluation is scheduled for 2012-2013 but a specific commencement date has not yet been determined.
6. The program had three merit criteria: potential for reduction of the environmental footprint; scope and impact of process improvement; and organisational capacity/capability to undertake the project.
7. Project funding was approved by a senior departmental official, following recommendations from committees acting under delegation from Innovation Australia.