

**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:** Clean Technology Programs

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Bushby

**QUESTION No.:** BI-132

1. For all of the grants that do not proceed to Cabinet for clearance, who approves each of the projects for funding? And, in each case, what specific qualifications, technical expertise and experience do those individuals possess that allows them to suitably assess the quality and value of the kinds of activities being funded and their likely outcomes?
2. Where detailed technical content and claims appear in any of the applications, what process do the officers assessing such applications follow in order to test and verify such information?

**ANSWER**

1. **Clean Technology Investment Program and Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program:**

The Program Delegate, an AusIndustry official authorised by the Minister to administer the program, makes decisions on application completeness and eligibility. Applications that are complete and eligible are referred to Innovation Australia, a Commonwealth statutory body that undertakes the merit assessment of applications through the Clean Technology Investment Committee. The Committee can also refer applications to the Innovation Australia Board, or seek an Independent Expert Assessment, should it determine it does not have the capacity to assess a particular application.

Applications seeking a grant amount of \$5 million or more are referred to the Innovation Australia Board for assessment, following a recommendation by the Committee. The Program Delegate makes grant offers taking into account Innovation Australia's recommendation and the availability of program funds.

Information on the Clean Technology Investment Committee members is published on the AusIndustry website at <http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/programs/CleanTechnology/Pages/CleanTech-CommitteeBiographies.aspx>.

## **Clean Technology Innovation Program**

The Program Guidelines for the Clean Technology Innovation Program do not require applications to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Applications that are complete and meet the eligibility requirements will be referred to Innovation Australia, a Commonwealth statutory body that will undertake the technical assessment and merit ranking of applications through its Clean Technology Innovation Committee. Applications seeking a grant between \$3 million and \$5 million will also be referred to the Innovation Australia Board for assessment, following a recommendation by the Committee. Further, the Committee can seek an Independent Expert Assessment, should it determine it does not have the capacity to assess a particular application. The Program Delegate, an AusIndustry official authorised by the Minister to administer the program, will make grant offers taking into account Innovation Australia's recommendation and the availability of program funds.

The Clean Technology Innovation Committee has been established, Committee Members are yet to be appointed. Committee members will be selected on the basis of particular expertise.

## 2. **Clean Technology Investment Program and Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program**

The applicant is obligated to provide evidence to support any claims made against the Program eligibility and merit criteria. An AusIndustry officer will question the applicant on the veracity of the claims made and seek additional information as required. The assessment will then be provided to the Clean Technology Investment Committee as part of the assessment process. Committee members will draw on their individual and collective knowledge and experience in undertaking the technical assessment of applications.

### **Clean Technology Innovation Program**

The obligation will be on the applicant to provide evidence to support any claims made against the selection criteria. An AusIndustry officer will review the application for completeness and will question the applicant on the veracity of the claims made and seek additional information as required. The assessment will then be provided to the Clean Technology Innovation Committee as part of the assessment process. Committee members will draw on their individual and collective knowledge and experience in undertaking the technical assessment applications.