

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
19 October 2011

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

TOPIC: GREEN CAR INNOVATION FUND – TOYOTA AND HOLDEN

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-143

1. On what date did the Government and Toyota enter into an agreement for the global engine line project?
2. On what date was Holden's application for funding for its Green Commodore received? And what work did the Government do in terms of verifying Holden's figures on the benefits of the project, and how?
3. What checking does the Department perform in relation to the level of local, Australian manufacturing in each of these projects? And are there any rules with which the project proponents must comply in relation to Australian manufacturing?
4. Does that also apply to the sourcing of the equipment used in the final product? Are there any guidelines and stipulations that they be sourced within Australia?

ANSWER

1. The Agreement between Toyota and the Commonwealth was executed on 27 January 2011.
2. Holden's application was received on 9 November 2010. All Green Car Innovation Fund (GCIF) applications were assessed for eligibility by AusIndustry. Additional evidence, quantifiable information and independent technical assessments were obtained where necessary. The Green Car Innovation Committee and the Board of Innovation Australia (the Board) assessed the Holden application against the merit criteria, taking account of the claims and evidence submitted by the applicant. The Board provided its recommendation on the relative merit of the application to the Program Delegate. In line with program guidelines that applications for grants of \$10 million or more that are recommended for funding, Holden's application was referred to the Cabinet of the Australian Government for consideration prior to final approval by the Program Delegate.
3. The GCIF requires all project activities supported by a grant to be undertaken in Australia. The Department monitors and checks that grantees comply with the requirements of the program. No.
4. The program guidelines do not stipulate where equipment used in the final product must be sourced from.