

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 October 2011

Question: SR12

Topic: LETDF Grant Allocation Process

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Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: Without going into hypothesis, will the review be independent or conducted by the department? If it is by the department, by who?

Mr Hoffman: It will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the LETDF program, which sets it out. I believe that the decision making process is done within the department.

Senator LUDLAM: Could you tell us on notice if there is any variation to what is understood to be the process of the grant allocation and who specifically which unit, sub-unit, office or whatever will undertake that review? Will it include recommendations on whether the grant agreement should be rescinded or withdrawn? I take it that would be the point of undertaking the review.

Mr Hoffman: That is one logical outcome or one possible outcome, yes.

Answer:

The review of whether HRL has satisfied the conditions precedent (CPs) for LETDF funding will be undertaken by the department, specifically by officers in the Clean Energy Division responsible for administering the funding agreement. The review will draw upon advice from counterparts in the Victorian Government and other expert advice, such as technical and legal, if required.