

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

18 October 2012

**Question:** SR69  
**Topic:** Renewable Energy Projects  
**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Bushby asked:**

1. How much grant funding has been committed to renewable energy projects in Australia since the election of the Government in 2007?
2. How much of this is for solar?
3. How much of this is for geothermal energy?
4. Of these committed funds, how much has actually been received by grant recipients?
5. Of the \$100 million announced in the 2009 Budget to establish ACRE, how much has been received by industry?
6. Can the department provide a breakdown by project?
7. How much has gone to R&D?

**Answer:**

1. The Department has committed \$899 million to renewable energy projects. The Department is not in a position to answer this question for the whole Australian Government.
2. \$302 million was for solar.
3. \$205 million was for geothermal.
4. \$104 million of these committed funds has been received by grant recipients.
5. These funds were transferred into ACRE from the Renewables Australia program in 2009 and made up an allocation of \$690 million dollars in total for ACRE. The funds then became part of a larger pool of available funds within ACRE. As such we are unable to specifically identify how much of the \$100 million has been received by industry.
6. A list of ongoing projects that are currently funded can be found at:  
<http://www.arena.gov.au/programs/projects/index.html>  
A list of both completed and ongoing projects funded can be found at **Attachment A**.
7. The following has gone to research and development (R&D) (**Attachment B** provides a list):
  - \$159.806 million granted.
  - \$46.401 million paid.

## ATTACHMENT A

## Current &amp; Completed Funded Renewable Energy Projects

| Project  | Total Expenditure Project to date | Total Grant Funds |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| CSEnergy - Kogan Creek 23MW Solar Thermal                              | 16,403                            | 34,900            |
| SolarOasis - 40MW Solar Thermal  | -                                 | 60,000            |
| Silex Systems - PV   | -                                 | 75,000            |
| AGL - 159MW Solar PV   | -                                 | 129,700           |
| Bluescope - Rooftop Building Integrated PV                             | 149                               | 2,285             |
| ASTEAs - Concentrating Solar Thermal in NEM                            | -                                 | 85                |
| <b>Total Solar</b>   | <b>16,552</b>                     | <b>301,970</b>    |
| MNGI - Paralana 30MW Hot Rocks Geothermal                              | -                                 | 62,762            |
| Geodynamics - Cooper Basin 25MW Hot Rocks                              | 20,400                            | 90,000            |
| MNGI/Petratherm - Paralana   | 4,200                             | 7,000             |
| Geodynamics - Bulga, Hunter Valley                                     | -                                 | 7,000             |
| NICTA - Data Fusion and Machine Learning                               | 100                               | 1,902             |
| Uni of Adelaide - Reservoir quality in sedimentary geothermal reserves | -                                 | 1,250             |
| Panax Goothermal   | 7,000                             | 7,000             |
| GRE Geothermal   | 350                               | 7,000             |
| Greenearth Energy  | 350                               | 7,000             |
| Hot Rock   | 350                               | 7,000             |
| Torrens  | 350                               | 7,000             |
| <b>Total Geothermal</b>  | <b>33,100</b>                     | <b>204,914</b>    |
| Wave Partners - 19MW Portland Wave                                     | -                                 | 66,465            |
| Carnegie Wave - 2MW CETO pilot Perth Wave Energy                       | 249                               | 9,939             |
| Oceanlinx - 1MW pilot wave energy Port MacDonnell                      | 383                               | 3,970             |
| Biopower - Biowave 250kw ocean pilot Port Fairy                        | 544                               | 5,600             |
| <b>Total Ocean</b>   | <b>1,176</b>                      | <b>85,974</b>     |
| Hydro Tas - King Island Integration Project                            | 100                               | 15,280            |
| Uni of Mel - Design of NEM for increasing renewables                   | -                                 | 931               |
| <b>Total Hybrid/Enabling</b>   | <b>100</b>                        | <b>16,211</b>     |
| <b>Southern Cross Renewable Energy Fund</b>                            | <b>2,535</b>                      | <b>100,000</b>    |
| <b>Qantas - Feedstock and refining capacity for aviation fuel</b>      | <b>25</b>                         | <b>500</b>        |
| <b>Almond Board - Bioenergy from almond waste</b>                      | <b>16</b>                         | <b>32</b>         |

|  |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CUT - Advanced biomass</b>  | -              | <b>3,624</b>   |
| <b>JCU - Scientific blueprint high energy biofuels</b>               | -              | <b>5,000</b>   |
| <b>Algal Fuels Consortium - bio-refinery for microalgal biofuels</b> | <b>69</b>      | <b>2,724</b>   |
| <b>BSES - sugarcane biomass system</b>                               | <b>1,266</b>   | <b>1,326</b>   |
| <b>CUT - Mallee biomass transport fuels</b>                          | <b>2,500</b>   | <b>2,500</b>   |
| <b>Licella - ligocellulosics to stable bio-crude</b>                 | <b>2,288</b>   | <b>2,288</b>   |
| <b>Microbiogen - sugarcane bagasse into feed and fuel</b>            | <b>2,314</b>   | <b>2,538</b>   |
| <b>Uni of Mel - algal biomass</b>                                    | <b>890</b>     | <b>930</b>     |
| <b>Total BioEnergy</b>   | <b>9,368</b>   | <b>21,462</b>  |
| <b>Waratah Power - Small Hydro fish friendly design</b>              | <b>212</b>     | <b>613</b>     |
| <b>Total Hydropower</b>  | <b>212</b>     | <b>613</b>     |
| <b>ASI - Australian Solar Institute</b>                              | <b>37,074</b>  | <b>147,500</b> |
| <b>Advanced Biofuels Investment Readiness Program</b>                | -              | <b>15,000</b>  |
| <b>Geoscience Australia - Solar mapping database</b>                 | <b>3,570</b>   | <b>5,000</b>   |
| <b>Total Expended/Grant Funds</b>                                    | <b>103,687</b> | <b>898,645</b> |

**ATTACHMENT B****Current Funded Research and Development Renewable Energy Projects**

|  | <b>Expenditure</b> | <b>Grants</b>  |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Australian Solar Institute                                       | 37,074             | 147,500        |
| Algal Fuels Consortium - bio-refinery for microalgal biofuels    | 69                 | 2,724          |
| BSES - sugarcane biomass system                                  | 1,266              | 1,326          |
| Curtin University of Technology - Mallee biomass transport fuels | 2,500              | 2,500          |
| Licella - ligocellulosics to stable bio-crude                    | 2,288              | 2,288          |
| Microbiogen - sugarcane bagasse into feed and fuel               | 2,314              | 2,538          |
| University of Melbourne - algal biomass                          | 890                | 930            |
| <b>Total R&amp;D</b>   | <b>46,401</b>      | <b>159,806</b> |