

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Topic: Home Sustainability Assessments – Accredited Assessors**

**Question reference number: CC85**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Question:** (Senator Birmingham)

1. Why was a ‘moratorium’ placed on new assessor applications by the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA)?
2. As of 28 January the ABSA was ‘holding over 5,000 new applications awaiting processing’. When was this moratorium lifted or, if yet to be lifted, when is it expected to be lifted?
3. ABSA has recognised that applicants who are awaiting processing have already spent money on training and professional indemnity insurance – with such a back log, is it the case that many applicants may not be in a position to receive an income from the Housing Sustainability Assessment Scheme for some time?

**Answer:**

1. The ABSA advised that it was placing a ‘moratorium’ on new assessor applications to ensure sufficient work in the marketplace for the existing pool of certified assessors.
2. The Department understands that ABSA has not lifted the moratorium. Any future decision on lifting the moratorium would be a matter for the ABSA.
3. The Australian Government has placed a cap of 5,000 assessors it will contract to conduct Home Sustainability Assessments under the Green Loans program. It is likely that some people accredited by ABSA will not be contracted by the Department. Clause 3.2 of the contract between assessors and the Department is clear on the level of work that an assessor may obtain:

*3.2 No guarantee of work*

*The Assessor acknowledges that there is no guarantee or assurance:*

- (a) of any particular volume of business under this Contract or the Program; or*
- (b) that the Assessor will receive any bookings to undertake any Assessments.*