

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

Topic: Green Start Program – Tender Process

Question reference number: CC88

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 2

Question: (Senator Birmingham)

1. Why was the tender period for the Green Start program delayed from 14 January, as announced by Minister Garrett on 26 November, to 21 January?
2. Between 26 November and 21 January there were more than 13 additions to the tender documents. Why were there so many additions to the tender specifications in such a short period of time?
3. When are successful tenderers to be advised?
4. How many tenders have been received through the tender process?
5. What has been the relative standard/quality of tenders received in each State and Territory?

Answer:

1. The closing date for the tender period was revised from 14 January 2010 to 21 January 2010 to take into consideration the Christmas and New Years shutdown period.
2. It is not uncommon for a Request for Tender (RFT) on AusTender to have a number of addenda following its initial publication. The 12 addendas released were provided as and when they were required. They did not alter the specifications of the RFT but sought to provide clarification and additional information for potential tenderers.
3. On 19 February 2010, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts announced:
 - a. That the Green Start program would not commence until 1 January 2011.
 - b. The program will remain directed at helping low income households and those most at need to improve their energy and water efficiency and help tackle climate change.
 - c. The program will also include a web-based assessment tool for all households.
 - d. The program will include in-home sustainability assessments, providing an ongoing pipeline of work for home sustainability assessors following the Green Loans program.

4. Due to probity reasons relating to the evaluation process that is currently underway, the number of tenders received through the tender process cannot be disclosed at this time.
5. We are not able to provide information regarding the relative standard/quality of tenders received in each State and Territory due to procurement confidentiality provisions.