

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO

Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Outcome: 1

Topic: Whole of Government Departmental Efficiencies

Senator: ABETZ

Question reference number: 83

Type of question: Written, Tuesday 19 October 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

- a) The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies?
- b) Can you provide details of how these efficiencies will be achieved? Please provide specific examples.
- c) Will the implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend impact on your department or portfolio agencies ability to meet the efficiencies outlined in the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook?
- d) Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff to meet the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies in your portfolio? If so, please provide details? Are there such plans for the future?
- e) Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to exceed their current budget. If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).
- f) Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to under spend their current budget. If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

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Answer:

- a) Not applicable. The Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government was established on 14 September 2010.
- b) Not applicable
- c) Not applicable
- d) Not applicable
- e) No

- f) There may be small underspends in the Jobs Fund – National Bike Path Projects and Regional Partnership programs due to a small number of proponents withdrawing their applications and/or project underspends; however, the extent of the underspend cannot be determined until all projects are completed.