

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Question: 35

Topic: Timeline to Start Projects

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Are there defined timelines as to when the successful projects must be started and completed?

If yes, what are these timelines? Are they the same across the board, or will they be individually assessed?

If no, why not?

Answer:

The Guidelines for Round One of the Regional Development Australia Fund stated that 'applications for projects must commence and complete construction of the component funded by the Australian Government in the period between 2011-12 and 2013-14' (section 4.7 of the Guidelines). The Guidelines further specify that Funding Agreements must be executed within 16 weeks of announcement by the Minister (section 9.1 of the Guidelines) and that projects were required to commence within six months of execution of the Funding Agreement (section 4.2 of the Guidelines).

These criteria were applied equally to all applications.