

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0140) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

How does the Department respond to criticism that the EMAs should apply to all phases of mining projects, not just the project construction phase and all projects, no matter the size?

Answer:

The EMA program focuses on the construction phase of 'mega' resource projects as this is where the most significant labour market impacts of a project occur. Industry data shows that the operational labour force of planned mega resources projects is on average 20 per cent of the construction workforce. In addition the operation of resources projects is more long term than the construction phase and therefore more suited to longer term migration solutions and domestic training initiatives.