

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Committee Question Number: 83
Departmental Question Number: SQ17-000230

Program: 3.1 Regional Development
Division/Agency: Policy and Research
Topic: Regional Jobs and Investment Packages
Proof Hansard Page: 108-109 (22 May 2017)

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

Senator STERLE: Can you tell me what the rationale is for excluding a not-for-profit organisation established less than two years prior to the time of applying? There is a stare-off going on here from one end of the table to the other!

Ms Zielke: Sorry, Senator; you have lots of people ready to respond to questions. My apologies.

Ms Power: I do not have the detail. I assume you are reading from the guidelines.

Senator STERLE: No, I am reading from the briefing. Please—I have no ideas—tell me.

Ms Zielke: It is not an eligibility criterion.

Mr Mrdak: I do not think we are familiar with that.

Ms Power: It appears in a couple of places in the guidelines. The reason for my hesitation is in part that I would like to see the context. Could we take that on notice, Senator?

Senator STERLE: All right. You can. I think it also says, or it must, that a higher education provider of technical and further education being a TAFE body is excluded. That is correct?

Ms Power: That is right.

...

Senator STERLE: Why do applicants only get 20 points out of 100 for meeting the industry growth sectors identified in the local investment plans?

Ms Power: It is because we need to strike a balance between the plan itself and other merit criteria, so, although it is not an unimportant factor, it is obviously not the only factor taken into consideration.

Senator STERLE: What are 'other merit criteria'?

Ms Power: The other merit criteria include—I am going to have to take that on notice, Senator. I am concerned that I will give you a slightly inaccurate answer because I do not have it specifically in my notes.

Answer:

1. The requirement for not for profit organisations that are legal entities to be established for at least two years prior to the time of applying for funding under RJIP, provides the Commonwealth with the assurance that the applicant is financially viable and will have the capacity to fund and deliver the project.
2. The question was answered by Ms Philippa Power on page 109 of Hansard.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Committee Question Number: 84
Departmental Question Number: SQ17-000232

Program: n/a
Division/Agency: Policy and Research
Topic: Cycling Participation
Proof Hansard Page: 114 (22 May 2017)

Senator Rice, Janet asked:

Senator RICE: The implementation report shows a sharp drop in the number of bike imports in the last year, which has been bucking a longstanding trend of increasing numbers of bikes being taken up. It does not correlate that to participation data; it just says that the 2017 survey will perhaps elicit some information there. But don't we know from past participation surveys that the numbers of riders is actually flatlining? Is there any relevance in the fact that the number of bike imports has decreased?

...

Senator RICE: But the strategy over its five years had an overarching goal of doubling cycling participation, so we have had very small increases. We now know that the number of bikes being imported has decreased, so we have not come anywhere near doubling participation, have we?

Ms Zielke: Not that I am aware of, but again I am happy to take those figures on notice.

Answer:

The response to this question was subsequently provided and is at Page 115 of Hansard.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Committee Question Number: 85

Departmental Question Number: SQ17-000233

Program: 3.1: Regional Development

Division/Agency: Policy and Research

Topic: Interactions between Government Decentralisation Policy and APS job cuts.

Proof Hansard Page: 120 (22 May 2017)

Senator McCarthy, Malarndirri asked:

Senator McCARTHY: Minister, have you done any analysis of the jobs cut by other ministers in regional Australia like the jobs in the tax office and in Centrelink?

Senator Nash: I am not aware of those particular ones you are talking about.

Senator McCARTHY: Do you want to take that on notice?

Senator Nash: Certainly I can do that.

Answer:

Questions relating to staffing levels within a particular department or agency should be directed to that department or agency.