

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 172

**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates

**Outcome:** Corporate

**Programme:** Policy and Communications Division

**Topic:** Portfolio Wide – Discretionary Grants Programmes (Part 2)

**Hansard Page:** N/A

**Question Date:** 27 November 2013

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

Has there also been a pause in the release of funding for grants under these programs – if so, what are the details. If there has been a pause: What advice has been provided to stakeholders about the nature and purpose of the pause. Did this pause include grants that had been advertised but not yet finalised? Did this pause include grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified? If so, is there an indicative timeline as to when successful recipients of grants can expect to hear from the Government? Are all grants in each program the subject of a pause.

**Answer:**

The Government has not paused grants.

The Government assessed all grant spending for consistency with Government priorities and commitments. This has included an additional step in agencies' grants processes requiring the Minister for Finance to be consulted prior to any grant spending to assess the grant's alignment with Government priorities. All the background work in relation to these programmes, such as managing existing contracts, and the general management of these programmes continued in the normal way.