

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Additional Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14  
27 February 2013

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Assessment of Grant Spending

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** AI-127

1. Please provide a list of all discretionary grants where the Department of Finance and the Minister for Finance are assessing grant spending and a list where discretionary grants are proceeding "as normal" (refer Hansard extract below).

***Senator KIM CARR:** Secretary, with regard to the discretionary grants the government has made a decision that all discretionary grants require approval by the Minister for Finance to assess that grant spending is consistent with the government's priorities and commitments. That is the case, isn't it?*

***Ms Beauchamp:** The Department of Finance and the Minister for Finance are assessing discretionary grants across the portfolio across the APS to make sure they are in accordance with the government's priorities. Yes, we are involved in that process.*

***Senator KIM CARR:** And what has been the impact of that decision?*

***Ms Beauchamp:** Some decisions have been made about some programs, and others are still under consideration, primarily through the budget process.*

***Senator KIM CARR:** What areas can you identify where there have been decisions already taken?*

***Ms Beauchamp:** There are about 13 programs proceeding as normal. They relate to a number of programs where contracts have been entered into and we are honouring the contracts. They include things like Clean Technology Investment Program, Clean Technology Innovation Program, Low Carbon Communities, National Centre for Asia Capability, the Victorian innovation investment fund, small business advisory services, the SKA that you mentioned this morning, the Cooperative Research Centres program, Science for Australia's Future, international education and training, industry workforce training, National Centre for Vocational Education Research and the national foundation skills strategy.*

***Senator KIM CARR:** Is there a list there I could have? My writing is not as quick as it used to be.*

***Ms Beauchamp:** I can table a list by the end of the day.*

***Senator KIM CARR:** Thank you. That would be terrific. You mentioned 13 programs that are operating as normal or where there are existing contracts. What are the programs where we are awaiting decisions?*

***Ms Beauchamp:** That, again, is quite a long list, and I am happy to take that on notice and table that for you.*

2. In relation to discretionary grants that are being assessed by the Minister for Finance: what information does the Department give the Minister for Finance to make the assessment? How many discretionary grant applications have been rejected by the Minister for Finance? What are the delay times (on average) for discretionary grants that are being assessed by the Minister for Finance?

## ANSWER

1. Please refer to the below table for the full list of discretionary grants the Department manages. The highlighted programmes are the 13 that are proceeding as normal.

<b>Grant programmes</b>
Acacia Park Industrial Estate Armidale contribution towards enhanced communications capacity
Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships
Alternative Pathways Program for Skills Training
Australian Centre for Asia Capability Asialink Business (previously referred to as the Australian Centre for Asia Capability)
Australia-China Science and Research Fund
Australian Paper's Maryvale Pulp and Paper Mill - assistance
Automotive New Markets Initiative
Bindaree Beef - assistance
Carbon Capture and Storage Flagships
Clean Business Australia - Green Building Fund
Clean Sustainable Skills Package - Green Skills Agreement
Clean Technology Innovation Program
Clean Technology Investment Programs
Coal Sector Technology Abatement Package
Commercialisation Australia
Cooperative Research Centres Program
Diamond Energy Assistance
Energy Brix Australia Corporation
Energy Efficiency Information Grants
Enterprise Connect
Enterprise Solutions Program - establishment
General Motors Holden - next generation vehicles - contribution
Green Car Innovation Fund
Illawarra and Region Innovation and Investment Fund
Incentives for Higher Technical Skills (non-Australian Apprenticeship component)
Industry Innovation Precincts Programme
Industry Training Strategies (Education & Training Advisers and Integrated Information Services)
Industry Workforce Training
Innovation Investment Fund

International Education and Training (Australia-India Strategic Research Fund element only)
Investing in Experience (Skills, Recognition & Training)
Leveraging Australia's Global Expat Platform – Advance
Low Carbon Communities
Low Technology Demonstration Fund
National Centre for Vocational Education Research
National Foundation Skills Strategy - Structural Training System Initiatives
National Low Emissions Coal Initiative (NLECI)
National Training System COPE - Foundation Skills
National Workforce Development Fund (includes Critical Skills Investment Fund)
Opening up opportunities through Australian Industry Participation
Productive Ageing Through Community Education
Science for Australia's Future - Inspiring Australia
Skills Connect Fund
Small Business Advisory Services
Square Kilometre Array Radio Telescope Project
Step into Skills Program
Tasmanian Economic Diversification Projects
Tasmanian Forest Agreement - implementation package
Tasmanian Innovation and Investment Fund
Textile Clothing and Footwear - Strategic Capability Program
Textile Clothing and Footwear - Structural Adjustment Program
Toyota Major Mid-Cycle Overhaul of the Camry
Victorian Innovation Investment Fund - Ford Assistance
Workforce Innovation (formerly Strategic Intervention including National Skills Shortages Strategy)
Workplace English Language and Literacy

2. The Finance Minister is reviewing discretionary grant programs to ensure that they align with the Government's spending priorities and commitments. It does not involve the Finance Minister considering individual grant applications. The funding arrangements for a number of grants programs are being considered in the context of the 2014-15 Budget.