



Australian Academy of Science

Ian Potter House, Gordon Street, Canberra ACT 2601

Australian Academy of Science

Written questions on notice following hearing of 21 September 2018

The questions taken on notice by Anna-Maria Arabia, Chief Executive of the Australian Academy of Science, at the 21 September hearing of the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Partnership Program were:

1. *With regard to the government grant that you received in 2016:*
 - a. *Did you have to submit an application for the grant?*
 - b. *How long did the application process take?*
 - c. *What documentation did you have to provide in support of this application?*
 - d. *How long did you have to wait after applying for the grant to receive confirmation that your application had been successful?*
 - e. *How long after that date did it take for the money to be transferred to you?*

These questions refer specifically to the grant received in 2016 by the Australian Academy of Science under the Community Heritage and Icons Grants program of the Department of the Environment and Energy. The Academy received \$10,000 (\$11,000 incl. GST) under this scheme. The grant was used to create a virtual tour of the Shine Dome and to update the Shine Dome signage.

The Grant was opened to applications on 22 February 2016. The Academy submitted an application for the grant on 17 March 2016, ahead of the Department's deadline of 22 March 2016.

The application process involved completing an online application form, which included:

- Declarations on the eligibility of the Australian Academy of Science for the grant program
- Administrative details about the Academy as applicant, and the person authorised to sign the funding agreement; the authorised person was the events manager at the time, Mr Mitchell Piercey
- A title for the proposed project and an overview of the proposed project
- An outline of the activities to be undertaken, including relevant conservation management plans and community participation
- A description of the Academy's commitment to ongoing management of the project
- A risk analysis for the project
- A project budget, with a brief budget justification
- A declaration on confidentiality and privacy (the Academy indicated that there was no information in the application that it wished to be confidential)
- A closing declaration by the authorised person.



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Note that this grant program was only open to heritage listed sites; the Academy's Shine Dome is a heritage listed building and thus the Academy was eligible for the grant scheme. A declaration was provided by the Academy Chief Executive at the time, Dr Sue Meek, stating as owner/manager of the site she had reviewed the application and fully supported and endorsed the proposed project.

Our records do not provide accurate information on the length of time it took to prepare the Academy's application. For a relatively small grant for a closely defined project, we estimate the application would have taken around a week to prepare.

The Academy was notified of its success in obtaining the grant in late May 2016. An agreement was signed with the Department on 16 June 2016 and funding was received on 24 June 2016.