

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

**Question No:** 85  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 2  
**Programme:** Renewables Projections & Governance Division  
**Topic:** ONE MILLION SOLAR ROOFS PROGRAMME  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 10 June 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

On 3 December 2011, then Opposition Environment Spokesperson committed \$100 million to deliver one million solar roofs and a further \$100 million for solar towns and solar schools. Following the election, the Department released the “Plan for a Cleaner Environment” policy which included the commitment to the One Million Solar Roofs and solar towns and solar school programs. On 3 December 2013, the Minister for Environment committed \$600 million to solar roofs, schools and towns. However, in the Budget Papers, only \$2.1 million has been allocated for the solar towns and schools programs and the whole solar roofs program has been scrapped. Why was the Solar Roofs program scrapped entirely? Why has the Solar Towns and Schools program been stripped of half a billion dollars? Has the ongoing RET Review had any impact on the Government’s decision to scrap \$597.8m from its solar programs?

**Answer:**

The Government was required to take some difficult decisions in the Budget to deliver its fiscal strategy. Not proceeding with the ‘One Million Solar Roofs’ programme and scaling back the solar towns and schools programmes are two of those decisions.