

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

Question No: 172
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Climate Change and Renewable Energy (CCARE)
Topic: Climate change – expenses

Hansard Page:

Question Date:

Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

I note on page 58 of the Portfolio Budget Statements that total program expenses for 2.1 are nearly \$10 million less in 2016-17 than in 2015-16. Could you please run us through why this is the case?

Answer:

The difference in forecast total Programme 2.1 expenses between 2015-16 and 2016-17 is explained by:

- An ‘approved operating loss’ of \$7.2m for 2015-16 resulting from a timing difference in the recognition of revenue received from AusAID (subsequently merged into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and the recording of equivalent expenditure. The revenue was recognised in a prior year and the corresponding expenditure is now expected to occur. This is effectively an accounting entry and does not reflect a change in underlying program expenses.
- A 3 per cent decrease in ‘Departmental programme support’, which is consistent with the reduced appropriation provided to the Department in 2015-16 for programme support. The decrease includes the impact of decisions made in the prior year to support the repair of the Budget.