

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

Question No: 4
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Grant Applications
Hansard Page: 7
Question Date: 25 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Mr Thompson: Typically for competitive grants programs, the minister is the decision maker. That is the typical situation.

Senator URQUHART: In relation to each of those programs, is there an industry advisory body or some other form of advisory body that is involved in the assessment process for grant applications?

Mr Thompson: Again that would differ by program. I can talk about some of the programs in my part of the world which relate to biodiversity protection.

Senator URQUHART: I guess what I would like is an overall picture. If you need to take that on notice, then I am happy for you to do that. But I would also like the details of who those different advisory bodies are that are attached to each of the programs.

Mr Thompson: Certainly. Just to be clear and to give an example which might clarify the question, for the National Heritage Trust, we have the National Landcare Advisory Committee, which is an advisory committee. Typically they will be involved in giving advice on the design of the overall program but not be involved in the assessment of competitive grants. Typically that will be the case across most of the programs. You do not involve people who have a conflict of interest in advising on the grants themselves. For example, again under the national Landcare program, we involve community assessors, people who understand how these things work on the ground, to help shape the department's advice to the minister about what would be a suitable grant to fund.

Senator URQUHART: Perhaps you can take that on notice.

Mr Thompson: We will take it on notice.

Answer:

Refer to Attachment A.

A List of all the grant programs administered by the Department of the Environment with details of Industry Advisory Body or other forms of Advisory Bodies involved with the grant applications assessment process.

Name of the Program	Is an Industry Advisory Body involved in the grant application assessment process	Name of the Industry Advisory Body/Advisory Body
National Landcare Program: Natural Heritage Trust - National Projects	No	
National Landcare Program: Natural Heritage Trust - Reef Recovery	Yes	Land Sector Carbon & Biodiversity Board
National Landcare Program: Natural Heritage Trust - Regional Deliverables	No	
National Landcare Program: Natural Heritage Trust - 25th Anniversary Grants	Yes	National Landcare Advisory Committee
National Landcare Program: Natural Heritage Trust - Indigenous Protected Areas	Yes	Indigenous Advisory Body
National Landcare Program: Natural Heritage Trust - 20 Million Trees	No	
National Landcare Program: Environmental Stewardship Program	No	
Reef Trust	Yes	Australian Institute of Marine Science Panel
Biodiversity Fund	No	
Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change	Yes	Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board
Heritage Grants	No	
National Trusts Partnership Program	No	
Community Heritage and Icons Grants	No	
Solar Towns establishment	No	
Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure - Supply Measures	No	
Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure - Infrastructure - NSW Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program	No	
Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure - Infrastructure - SA Private Irrigation Infrastructure Program	No	
Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure - On Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program	No	
Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure - Other Annual Appropriation projects	No	
National Urban Water and Desalination Plan	No	
Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) - Research Grants	No	
Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) - Capacity Building Grants	No	
Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) - Student Travel Grants	No	
Protecting Antarctica (Australian Antarctic Science Program)	Yes	Antarctic Research Assessment Committee
National Environmental Science Program	No	
Natural Resource Management for Climate Change	Yes	Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board
International Whale Science Initiative	Yes	The National Marine Mammal Scientific Committee (NMMSC)
Sustainable Australia –Suburban Jobs	No	
Sustainable Australia - Sustainable Regional Development (SPP)	Yes	The Regional Sustainability Planning (RSP) Reference Group
Extending the benefits of the Carbon Farming Initiative	No	