

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
 Industry and Science Portfolio
 2015-16 Budget Estimates
 3 and 4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Grant Programmes

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 64)

QUESTION No.: BI-57

Senator KIM CARR: At least there is some departmental funding in this one. With both the manufacturing transition grants, which were announced recently, and the next generation manufacturing grants, who actually signs off on the grants?

Ms Butler: The process is that the advisory committees make recommendations and the minister is the decision maker.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes. So the minister does not have to accept the recommendations.

Ms Butler: The minister is the decision maker, correct. They are advisory committees who make recommendations to the minister.

Senator KIM CARR: At the moment, how many other grants programs in the department work that way—that is, where there is an advisory committee and a minister sign-off?

Ms Butler: One that I could say now would obviously be the Cooperative Research Centre's program minister.

Senator KIM CARR: The minister's discretion is substantially limited in the CRC program. If my recollection serves me correctly, the CRC program, in terms of the list that is provided, you can only rate within that list; you cannot actually put another one in. Is that the case?

Ms Butler: I will have to get the relevant officer back for that one. I would not like to mislead you around the process for that program.

Senator Ronaldson: Well take that on notice.

ANSWER

The below table provides detail on Grant programmes and associated Advisory Committees.

Grant programme	Advisory Committee	Process if recommendation not agreed
Manufacturing Transition Programme	Manufacturing Transition Programme Interim Advisory Committee	The Manufacturing Transition Programme Guidelines establish the Minister as the decision-maker for funding. The Minister's decisions take account of the Committee's recommendations. The Minister may choose to approve projects that are not recommended by the Committee. In so doing, the Minister would be required to act in accordance with the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> and Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. The Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines require the Minister to report such instances to the Finance Minister.

Automotive Diversification Programme	Automotive Diversification Programme Advisory Committee	The Automotive Diversification Programme Guidelines establish the Minister as the decision-maker for funding. The Minister's decisions take account of the Committee's recommendations. The Minister may choose to approve projects that are not recommended by the Committee. In so doing, the Minister would be required to act in accordance with the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> and Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. The Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines require the Minister to report such instances to the Finance Minister.
Geelong Region Innovation and Investment Fund	Geelong Region Innovation and Investment Fund Advisory Committee	The Geelong Region Innovation and Investment Fund Programme Guidelines establish that the Minister, in consultation with the Victorian Minister for Industry, will make the final funding decisions. The Minister's decisions take account of the Committee's recommendations. The Minister may choose to approve projects that are not recommended by the Committee. In so doing, the Minister would be required to act in accordance with the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> and Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. The Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines require the Minister to report such instances to the Finance Minister.
Melbourne's North Region Innovation and Investment Fund	Melbourne's North Region Innovation and Investment Fund Advisory Committee	The Melbourne's North Innovation and Investment Fund Programme Guidelines establish that the Minister, in consultation with the Victorian Minister for Industry, will make the final funding decisions. The Minister's decisions take account of the Committee's recommendations. The Minister may choose to approve projects that are not recommended by the Committee. In so doing, the Minister would be required to act in accordance with the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> and Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. The Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines require the Minister to report such instances to the Finance Minister.

<p>Next Generation Manufacturing Investment Programme</p>	<p>Next Generation Manufacturing Investment Programme Interim Advisory Committee</p>	<p>The Next Generation Manufacturing Investment Programme Guidelines establish the Minister as the decision-maker for funding. The Minister's decisions take account of the Committee's recommendations. The Minister may choose to approve projects that are not recommended by the Committee. In so doing, the Minister would be required to act in accordance with the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> and Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. The Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines require the Minister to report such instances to the Finance Minister.</p>
<p>Cooperative Research Centres Programme</p>	<p>Cooperative Research Centres Committee</p>	<p>The Cooperative Research Centres Programme Guidelines establish the Minister as the decision-maker for funding. The Minister's decisions take account of the Committee's recommendations. The Minister may choose to approve projects that are not recommended by the Committee. In so doing, the Minister would be required to act in accordance with the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> and Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. The Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines require the Minister to report such instances to the Finance Minister.</p>