

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15
23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Australian Government Innovation and Investment Fund - Tasmania – Programme 2

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, written 31 October 2014)

QUESTION No.: SI-71

1. For the Fund's Advisory Committee, has the representative from the Australian Government been appointed? If yes who is it? And have the members of the advisory committee with relevant Tasmanian business experience been appointed? If yes who are they and what is their experience?
2. Has the Minister appointed a delegate yet to approve the funding or will the Minister sign off on grants themselves? If the Minister has appointed a delegate who is the delegate and what is their position?
3. How will the level of net economic benefit the proposed projects will bring to Tasmania be assessed?
4. There is a minimum grant of \$50,000 is there a maximum grant amount?
5. How will the program's success be reviewed?
6. Will forestry contractors who received grants under the Exit Grants Programs be eligible to apply for these grants if the proposed projects are in forestry?
7. Have you spoken to the Agriculture Department about sharing data on who has received grant money under these programs? If yes what processes have been put in place to share this data?

ANSWER

1. Yes, Mr Geoff Atkinson who is the State Manager of the Tasmania State Office of AusIndustry. As at 6 November 2014 the members with relevant Tasmanian business experience have not been finalised.
2. The Minister will be the approver for successful applicants.
3. All projects will be assessed against the merit criteria set out in the Ministerial Guidelines. The first merit criterion is:
The level of net economic benefit the proposed Project will bring to Tasmania including:
 - i. the contribution of the project towards the business's growth
 - ii. the number of, and sustainability of, new jobs generated through the project
4. No

5. AusIndustry will ensure that Projects are monitored to obtain relevant information for evaluation purposes. All grantees will be required to acquit all funding received under the Fund in accordance with the requirements of the Grant Agreement. It is a requirement that the Fund must be evaluated on completion by the Commonwealth.
6. Of the 137 applications that were received for the Australian Government Innovation and Investment Fund, there are no projects related to forestry from an applicant that has received a Tasmanian Forest Contractor Exit grant.
7. AusIndustry is already aware of the Tasmanian Forest Contractor Exit grant recipients because of the compliance work they have conducted for this program on behalf of the Department of Agriculture. All Forestry Exit grant recipients are public knowledge and are published on the Department of Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.au/about/obligations/grants-reporting-requirements.