

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Group: 3**

**Program: 1.7**

**Question: BE14/060**

**Senator Cameron asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:**

I note that my QoNs 24,25,26,27,28 from Additional Estimates in February 2014 remain unanswered and therefore I refer again to the new provision for loans for consequentially affected small businesses:

1. Has new the provision been implemented by a State government?
2. If so, for which State(s) and for which disaster event(s)?
3. Has the New South Wales government implemented the new provision?
4. Has the New South Wales government implemented the new provision for the Blue Mountains fires of October 2013?
5. If not, what reasons has New South Wales advised the Attorney General or the Department for not implementing the new provision? Please provide the relevant correspondence.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Department's responses to questions on notice 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 from the Additional Estimates hearing of 24 February 2014 have been tabled and are available on the Parliament of Australia website.

For the period 24 February 2014 to 28 May 2014 the Department provides the following supplementary information:

1. Yes.
2. In response to the impact of the Hazelwood Mine Fire on the Morwell community, on 7 March the Victorian Government activated the new emergency assistance concessional loans for eligible recipients in the Morwell area that may have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of the fire. These loans are offered under Category B of the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).
3. The New South Wales government has not offered the new NDRRA Category B emergency assistance concessional loans in response to a disaster event.
4. No.

5. The New South Wales government advised the Attorney-General's Department that the joint Commonwealth-New South Wales Community Recovery Package cost-shared under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and which focused on economic and social recovery in the Blue Mountains, was the most effective way to support the small business community in the affected area.

This reasoning was conveyed to the Department via a teleconference with state officials.