

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

Group: 3

Program: 1.7

Question No. SBE15/043

Senator Bilyk asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

Senator BILYK: Would issues around whether the project was in a crime hotspot have been part of the guidelines?

Mr Anderson: I do not think we actually used words such as 'crime hotspot'; I think we simply called for evidence to support the application. Sorry, it has been pointed out that we did actually talk about the program needing to ensure that local infrastructure could be rolled out in crime hotspots. But, when we actually talked about what we were asking people to provide we talked about needing to detail the crime prevention benefits. It really came down to the fact that it is actually very hard for people to provide detailed statistics and evidence of the extent of crime and antisocial behaviour in small locations when they are wanting to put up a CCTV in a particular street corner and that sort of thing.

Senator BILYK: This project only involves CCTV, doesn't it?

Mr Anderson: Primarily CCTV. It also involves some other forms of security infrastructure, such as lighting, for example.

Senator BILYK: What percentage would be lighting?

Mr Anderson: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator BILYK: Can you just give me a breakdown of what is CCTV, what is lighting and what is whatever else that may be included?

Mr Anderson: Yes. Certainly it is predominantly CCTV. I can save the time by saying that it is almost all

CCTV. But, if you want us to take it on notice, I can do that.

Senator BILYK: Did the guidelines ask about the ability of projects to reduce crime rates?

Mr Anderson: The guidelines noted that the department would be seeking to determine the impact the project would have, including on the criminal or antisocial behaviour that had led to the application being made. But we are also partly talking about perceptions of crime.

Senator BILYK: How many applications did the ANAO investigation find did not meet the program requirements as stated in the guidelines?

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

Eighty-one projects have been approved for funding under the Safer Streets Programme and 78 of these have an executed Funding Agreement in place. The breakdown of security infrastructure across these projects is as follows:

- 56 projects are installing CCTV only
- 6 projects are installing lighting only
- 16 projects are installing a combination of CCTV and lighting
- one project is installing CCTV and emergency beacons

- one project is installing CCTV and lighting and acquiring a portable graffiti removal system, and
- one project is acquiring a portable graffiti removal system only.

The ANAO's report of its audit of the Safer Streets Programme stated at pages 25 and 96 that 56 applications did not meet the programme eligibility requirements as stated in the guidelines.