

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Clean Energy Innovation Centre

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Birmingham

QUESTION No.: AI-114

What action has been taken in regard to the following 2007 Labor election commitments:

- a) \$50m under Energy Innovation Fund for the Australian Solar Institute; in four years, will aim to build a large scale Solargas plant
- b) \$50m from the Clean Coal Fund for a National Carbon Mapping and Infrastructure Plan to assess sites for carbon storage; incl. \$5m to WA, \$20m to QLD; \$20m to NSW
- c) \$50m from the Clean Coal Fund for a carbon capture and storage demonstration proj in NSW
- d) \$50m from the Clean Coal Fund for a pilot gasification plant in QLD
- e) \$50m for a large scale post combustion plant in VIC's Latrobe Valley - to be installed by 2011
- f) \$240m Clean Business Fund to help business and industry deliver energy and water efficiency projects
- g) \$500m Clean Coal Fund to fund the deployment of clean coal technologies
- h) Set a national objective for clean-coal generated electricity to enter the national electricity grid by 2020
- i) \$20m for the Clean Energy Enterprise Connect Centre to help small-med sized businesses compete globally
- j) \$15m in a Clean Energy Export Strategy
- k) \$20m in a Clean Energy Innovation Centre
- l) Implement a Clean Energy Plan; components: Renewable Energy Fund, Clean Business Fund, Energy Innovation Fund
- m) \$50m under Energy Innovation Fund for general clean energy R&D
- n) Fast track Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Australia's World Heritage and iconic areas
- o) \$75m under Clean Business Australia for the Climate Ready program to support development and commercialisation of green technologies in Aust
- p) Blueprint for coastal cities and towns to deal with climate change through national consultations
- q) \$25m over 5yrs to help prepare coastal communities for the impact of climate change
- r) \$150m Energy Innovation Fund to keep scientists and researchers in Australia
- s) \$50m under Renewable Energy Fund to assist companies to develop geothermal energy; dollar for dollar subsidy, capped at \$5m per well
- t) \$90m from Clean Business Australia for a Green Building Fund, to subsidise 50% of the cost of retrofitting commercial buildings, up to \$200K
- u) \$500m Green Car Innovation Fund to develop and build green cars in Aust, designed to generate \$2b to secure jobs in the auto industry

- v) \$15m to create water and energy saving demonstration projects - DEWHA?
- w) Establish one-stop Green Shop
- x) \$75m for a national research program to develop clean coal and other low emission technologies; incl. \$25m for CSIRO
- y) \$50m under Energy Innovation Fund for photovoltaic research
- z) \$500m Renewable Energy Fund to develop, commercialise and deploy renewable energy in Aust; will encourage private sector contributions of \$2 for every \$1 Commonwealth Government contribution
- aa) \$75m from Clean Business Australia the Re-tooling for Climate Change grants program for manufacturers; grants range \$10K-500K, up to a third of the cost of each project
- bb) \$25m boost to solar cities prog, including new sites in Coburg and Perth - DEWHA?
- cc) \$4.9m to help make Coburg a Solar Village
- dd) Labor will work through COAG to develop a consistent national approach to feed in tariffs, where solar photovoltaic installations receive a premium price for feeding electricity back into the electricity grid
- ee) \$250K to install solar heating panels at the Deception Bay PCYC pool
- ff) Aim to double the number of solar rooftops across Aust within the next 8 years
- gg) \$1m for Essendon's Windy Hill Green Development.

ANSWER

The relevant parts of Senator Birmingham's question were transferred to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research for response. This question was originally asked to the Department of Climate Change.

What action has been taken in regard to the following 2007 Labor election commitments:

- f) \$240m Clean Business Fund to help business and industry deliver energy and water efficiency projects

The Clean Business Australia initiative comprises three programs – see answers to (o), (t) and (aa) following.

- i) \$20m for the Clean Energy Enterprise Connect Centre to help small-med sized businesses compete globally

The Enterprise Connect Clean Energy Innovation Centre was launched in 1 April 2009 and is located in Newcastle, NSW. The Centre helps small and medium sized clean energy businesses enhance their performance by providing a range of business improvement services.

- k) \$20m in a Clean Energy Innovation Centre

Please refer to answer (i).

o) \$75m under Clean Business Australia for the Climate Ready program to support development and commercialisation of green technologies in Aust

The Climate Ready program opened on 28 July 2008. A total of 105 projects worth \$78.3 million have been offered funding under the program. The program is fully committed and closed to new applications. Further information is available at www.ausindustry.gov.au.

t) \$90m from Clean Business Australia for a Green Building Fund, to subsidise 50% of the cost of retrofitting commercial buildings, up to \$200K

The Green Building Fund opened on 30 October 2008. To date, offers of funding have been made for 158 projects (156 Stream A and 2 Stream B), for grant funding totalling \$55.2 million. Further information is available at www.ausindustry.gov.au.

u) \$500m Green Car Innovation Fund to develop and build green cars in Aust, designed to generate \$2b to secure jobs in the auto industry

The Government implemented the Green Car Innovation Fund as part of *A New Car Plan for a Greener Future*, announced on 10 November 2008. Under the Plan, the Government expanded the Green Car Innovation Fund from \$500 million over five years to \$1.3 billion over ten years and brought forward the Fund's commencement from 2011 to 2009. On 24 April 2009, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research publicly invited applications under the Fund. Further information concerning the New Car Plan and the Green Car Innovation Fund is available at www.innovation.gov.au/newcarplan.

aa) \$75m from Clean Business Australia the Re-tooling for Climate Change grants program for manufacturers; grants range \$10K-500K, up to a third of the cost of each project

The Re-tooling for Climate Change program opened on 17 September 2008. To date, offers of funding have been made for 72 projects, for grant funding totalling \$14.58 million. Further information is available at www.ausindustry.gov.au.