

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Audit and Evaluation Teams

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: AI-141

Does the Department still have audit and evaluation teams in Corporate Division – if so, how far in advance do they choose the activities and/or programs they will evaluate? And have any of the ‘clean energy future’ programs been flagged for audit and/or evaluation as part of their work programs – if so, which ones and when?

ANSWER

The Internal Audit and Fraud Section

The Internal Audit and Fraud Section is not part of Corporate Division but reports directly to one of the Deputy Secretaries and has access to the Secretary if required.

In accordance with the Audit Committee Charter, Audit Charter and better practice, the Audit team develops a rolling three year Strategic Internal Audit program, which is reviewed each year. An annual audit program is developed each year and progress against the plan is monitored through the Audit Committee. Throughout the year, as required, the plan is reviewed at Audit Committee meetings in light of changes to strategic and operational risks.

As part of the Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2011-14, audits of the Clean Technology Programs have been identified for consideration in 2013-14. The scope and timing of these audits will be reviewed again in planning for 2012-13 in light of changing risks and responsibilities.

The Evaluations and Strategic Planning Section

The Evaluations and Strategic Planning Section is part of Corporate Division and manages, monitors, and provides advice and guidance to the Department on conducting evaluations.

The Department has a three year rolling evaluation program that is reviewed annually. The evaluation program is developed in consultation with divisions and is monitored throughout the year and updated where necessary.

There are three Clean Technology Programs that are part of the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future initiative. Evaluations for each of these programs were planned during the program design phase. The Clean Technology Investment Program and the Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program are planned to be evaluated in 2015-16. The Clean Technology Innovation Program is scheduled to be evaluated in 2016-17.