

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

**Question: BET 316**

**Topic: Low Emissions Assistance for Renters**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator EGGLESTON asked:**

1. In the Portfolio Budget Statement for that department \$132 million was allocated to a program that no longer exists, the Low Emissions Assistance for Renters program. How did that mistake come about?
2. So what does \$132 million actually go towards now?
3. My understanding is that the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's budget also at first allocated \$17 million in 2009-2010 and \$13 million in 2010-2011 for a \$30 million climate change advertising campaign. The department has since revised the allocations to \$7 million in 2009-10 and \$23 million in 2010-11. How was that mistake made?
4. Is the Treasury taking any steps to ensure that such errors do not appear in future budget papers? Are there any issues with how this Department prepares its statements?

**Answer:**

Portfolio agencies are responsible for preparing their Portfolio Budget Statements.

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency released a Corrigendum to its Portfolio Budget Statement on 18 May 2010. The Corrigendum notes that Green Start funding was "incorrectly combined with residual funding for the LEAPR program which closed in 2009". The Corrigendum is publically available on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website.

Question three should be referred to the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Question four should be referred to the Department of Finance and Deregulation.