

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
30 May 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Green Car Innovation Fund

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: BI-100

During the Estimates hearing of 30 May 2011, there was discussion about the amounts of money spent (and withdrawn) from the Green Car Innovation Fund. As part of that discussion, the then Departmental Secretary stated that “\$25 million came out in PAES for 2010-11 and the \$35 million in the PBS at page 27 in 2010-11, which covers the \$60 million”.

How does this tally with the statements made in answer to Question on Notice AI-68 in the previous round of Estimates that “\$60 million (GST exclusive) in funding was made available under the program in 2009-10 but was not taken up by industry. Financial year 2009-10 coincided with the period in which the full impact of the global financial crisis was felt by the automotive industry globally and significantly constrained the ability of companies within the Australian automotive industry to invest in new innovation projects at that time”?

ANSWER

The response provided to AI-68 is consistent with the advice provided by the Departmental Secretary on 30 May 2011. \$60 million was available under the program in 2009-10 and subsequently removed in two instalments. \$35 million was an adjustment to the 2009-10 allocation, reflected in the Department’s 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements. \$25 million from 2009-10 was rephased to 2010-11 with a corresponding reduction to remove it from the program, reflected in the Department’s 2010-11 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement.