

**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:** CA Australia

**REFERENCE:** Written question – Senator Eggleston

**QUESTION No.:** BI-27

**Senator EGGLESTON:** You have said that. That is important to know. But we are trying to get some sort of feel for scale. There was a public announcement on 3 March about a new round of grant approvals. On how many occasions after they were first posted were the web page and/or accompanying attachment on the minister's website and details about the announcement of the grants changed and why? Changes were made—what was the reason for that? We know that there were at least four separate updates or edits to these pages on the website. While there is nothing sinister in this, we are just trying to work out why the changes were made. We are feeling around.

**Mr Ben-Meir:** To which websites are you referring?

**Senator EGGLESTON:** The minister's website.

**Mr Ben-Meir:** The minister's website is updated whenever there are grants approved. So it is going to change from time to time.

**Ms Kennedy:** So the difference there—

**Senator EGGLESTON:** This is approvals—indeed. Apparently, there were several changes made to the website. There were at least four separate updates or edits to these pages after approvals were made. We just wondered why that occurred.

**Ms Kennedy:** Mr Ben-Meir talked about them being updated. When the announcements are made, the announcements refer to the offer of a grant. There are a small number of occasions—in this case, probably up to four—where, having received an offer, a company is unable to execute a grant agreement, usually for some form of commercial reason, with a project either not proceeding or unable to proceed at that particular point in time.

**Senator EGGLESTON:** We have some emails here noting updates and changes. This one was from either Senator Carr or Senator Sherry on 3 March. There are others on 8 March at 11:39 am and 1:24 pm; and at 1:14 pm on 10 March. So these upgrades do occur. We are just looking for an explanation.

**Mr Paterson:** For those specific ones that you have just read onto the record, we will check the detail in relation to those and see if they accord with the circumstances Ms Kennedy has just outlined.

**ANSWER**

The media release '*Commercialisation Australia – getting good ideas to market*' was published on the ministers' website around 5.00pm on Thursday 3 March 2011. The media release was also distributed to media agencies and stakeholders on the same day just prior to publishing on the website, as per standard distribution procedures.

The media release was published only once to the website. The website's automatic email alert system experienced a technical issue and as a result, the email notification was not sent out to website subscribers until several days later. Some subscribers received this email notification up to seven days after the release was published and some subscribers also received numerous copies of the email alert.

The media release did not and has not been changed, updated or modified since it was originally published on Thursday 3 March 2011.