

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
28 and 29 May 2012

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

**TOPIC:** Buy Australian at Home and Abroad

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Bushby

**QUESTION No. BI -162**

1. To date, how much of the \$58.4 million assigned to the ‘Buy Australian at Home and Abroad’ (BAHA) program has been spent and/or committed – and on what, specifically?
2. At the time BAHA was presented as a ‘new’ program on Budget night in 2011, is it true that a substantial amount of the \$58.4 million currently assigned to the program had, in fact, already been committed to a range of initiatives and programs that now fall under its aegis? How much of this \$58.4 million figure was actually previously unallocated?
3. On the relevant web page on the Department’s website, it says that BAHA “will ensure better program integration across a range of related activities”. What is the meaning in practical terms of that statement – and what specific changes have been made (particularly to ASL numbers and administrative costs in each of the relevant areas) within the Department since its introduction?
4. Under a title of ‘Associated delivery agencies’ on the same web page, it also says the following: “The Buy Australian initiative is complemented by the work of Enterprise Connect, AusIndustry and the National Innovation System”. What does the reference to “the work of the National Innovation System” mean, specifically?

**ANSWER**

1. \$35.8 million (GST exclusive) has been spent/committed on:
  - Resources Sector Supplier Advisory Envoy and Resources Sector Supplier Advisory Forum.
  - Supplier Advocates and their work programs in the following sectors: Information Technology, Steel, Built Environment, Clean Technologies, Water, Rail and Textiles, Clothing and Footwear.
  - Supplier Access to Major Projects (general) and for projects in the resources sector.
  - Australian Made Campaign Ltd Supply Chain Advisor.
  - Australian Industry Participation Plans administration for Commonwealth Procurement.
  - Enterprise Connect initiatives to support Clean Technology Focus for Supply Chains and Buy Australian at Home and Abroad.

2. As part of the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2011-12 for the department, the Government consolidated a number of previously announced industry participation programs under the *Buy Australian at Home and Abroad* banner which now include the above listed activities within the main program components of:
  - Australian Industry Participation measures announced as part of the July 2009 Australian Government Procurement Statement (\$19.1 million (GST exclusive));
  - Buy Australian at Home and Abroad package announced in May 2011 as part of the 2011-12 Budget. (\$34.4 million GST exclusive); and
  - Clean Technology Focus for Supply Chains, announced as part of the July 2011 Clean Energy Plan (\$5.0 million GST exclusive).

As of 30 April 2011, of the \$19.1 million allocated to the measures for the Australian Government Procurement Statement that was operative at that time, \$5.1 million (GST exclusive) was unallocated at that time. As noted above the other program components were announced as part of or after the 2011 Budget and did not commence until the 2011-12 financial year.

3. The consolidation of the programs in (2) above under the Buy Australian at Home and Abroad banner explicitly recognises that better integration, alignment and coordination in the delivery of the Australian Government's industry participation programs will achieve enhanced outcomes for SMEs. In practice this means that these activities are considered part of the same work program and there is greater flexibility for the department in relation to administering funding. The consolidation does not have any additional funding or savings associated with it.
4. The National Innovation System is an umbrella term that encompasses the public and private mechanisms which harness innovation, increase productivity and competitiveness across the economy. Developing the innovation system is the central theme of *Powering Ideas – An Innovation Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* which outlines the Government's vision of the National Innovation System in 2020. Developing the National Innovation System a key element of the department's strategic plan 2011-14.