

**Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**  
Senate Budget Estimates, June 2011  
Questions on Notice: AusAID

**Question No.29**

**Senator Brown** asked in writing

- a) Has money been allocated in the budget forward estimates for climate change adaptation and mitigation for developing countries beyond the "fast-start" period which concludes in 2012–2013? If so, how much? If not, why not?
- b) What is the government's position on the double counting of domestic emission reductions and mitigation activities through the aid program? Is there any intention or possibility that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation activities, financed through Australia's aid budget, will be used to offset, or otherwise, to contribute towards Australia's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets?
- c) What proportion of Australia's "fast-start" finance will be delivered through multilateral development banks? Will any of this finance be delivered as loans? If so, how much?

**Answer**

- a) No. Any funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation for developing countries beyond financial year 2012-13 will be determined through the budget process.
- b) Australia will not utilise Official Development Assistance to purchase emission reduction units, including any units that may in the future be associated with REDD+ activities, to meet Australia's emission reduction commitments.
- c) \$498 million or 83 per cent of Australia's fast-start finance has been allocated to date. Of this, \$72.9 million has been allocated to initiatives managed by multilateral development banks and a further \$78.3 million has been allocated to multilateral initiatives whose implementing agencies include multilateral development banks, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund. Fast-start finance allocated to bilateral and regional programs may also in some cases be delivered through multilateral development banks under agreements negotiated with the Australian Government over the fast-start period. To date, \$5 million in funding allocated to bilateral and regional programs is being delivered through such agreements with multilateral development banks.

Australia's \$599 million fast-start contribution will be provided to bilateral, regional and multilateral partners entirely in grant form. Some of the multilateral initiatives that Australia supports make use of a range of financing instruments, including concessional loans.