

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Additional Estimates 2010-11

Question: 6

Topic: RDA Great Southern Region

Asked By: SENATOR ADAMS

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 108-109

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Number of pages: 1

Senator ADAMS—There are three people missing from this particular board. I wonder how effective it is. As I said, they were saying that the budget really pays just for the executive officer, a support staff person and the rent. My next question is: why has the committee never allocated any funds towards projects in the Great Southern region?

Answer:

The Australian Government provides funding to Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees to cover their operational costs such as salaries, rent, and vehicle leases.

Prior to the announcement of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) on 3 March 2011, RDA committees did not have a role in the allocation of Australian Government discretionary grant funds. Under the RDAF, RDA committees can play a facilitation role, including by identifying proposals which are consistent with the priorities set out in their Regional Plans. While projects put forward for funding under the RDAF must be endorsed by RDA committees, the decision to fund projects will be made by the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government on independent advice from the RDAF Advisory Panel to be established by the Minister.