

**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**

**Budget Estimates 25 May 2011**

**Question: 1**

**Topic: Category B NDRRA Loans**

**Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 7-8**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011**

**Number of pages: 2**

**Mr Leeper:** Senator, as of 3 May in Victoria some 31 category B NDRRA loans have been approved to assist small business owners. Twenty-nine of those were primary producers; two of those were small businesses.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** Sorry, what is a category B?

**Mr Leeper:** This is an up to \$25,000 grant, I think, and a loan component for those experiencing hardship following flooding events. There are 31 at the present time. What we do not know is what the possible potential eligible population is, that is data we would need to seek from Victoria at some point. The advice I have got is that the flooding events have probably directly impacted about 7,500 people but I am sorry, what I do not have here is how many businesses that might represent. We could seek that information from Victoria if it is important?

**Answer:** Category B assistance measures under the NDRRA include loans, subsidies or grants to alleviate the financial burden of costs incurred by certain businesses, primary producers, voluntary non-profit bodies and individuals as a direct result of a natural disaster. Category B also includes the restoration or replacement of essential public assets and counter-disaster operations for the protection of the general public.

The Victorian Government advised that at 20 June 2011 it has approved 55 concessional loans totalling more than \$5.1 million. The cost of this measure will be shared between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.

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The Victorian government has advised that more than 4,000 small business and primary producers were affected directly or indirectly by flood events, including over 2,400 farming businesses.