

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Sub Program 2.1.2

Question No. 145

Senator Fisher asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2009:

Under each of the grant programs EMA administers, what are the target timeframes and average actual timeframes for;

- a) acknowledgement of receipt of applications,
- b) application processing,
- c) notification of application outcome?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and Bushfire Mitigation Program (BMP):

- a) acknowledgement of receipt of applications,

Responsibility for acknowledgement of receipt of applications rests with the State or Territory concerned. The Department has been advised that this is done as soon as possible.

- b) application processing,

The initial assessment of project applications is the responsibility of the States and Territories. Following the assessment process, recommendations are prepared for the State Minister who then provides the Commonwealth Attorney-General with a final submission. The length of time it takes to process applications varies across jurisdictions.

- c) notification of application outcome?

Under the NDMP successful applicants and relevant State/Territory Ministers are notified in writing by the Commonwealth Attorney-General at the time of approval of individual submissions. Jurisdictions are responsible for advising the unsuccessful applicants of the outcome, and this has been done in all jurisdictions.

Under the BMP the relevant State/Territory Minister is notified in writing of successful applicants by the Commonwealth Attorney-General at the time of approval of their state submission. Jurisdictions are then responsible for advising both successful and unsuccessful applicants.

National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NEVSF):

- a) acknowledgement of receipt of applications,

Responsibility for acknowledgement of receipt of applications rests with the State and Territory emergency management agencies.

- b) application processing,

It is intended that applications will be processed and assessed by the Australian Government within five weeks of receipt from the States and Territories and that state selection committees be convened within eight weeks of applications closing. This objective has been achieved again for the NEVSF for the 2009/10 funding round.

- c) Notification of application outcome?

It is planned that the Commonwealth Attorney-General formally announces details of successful projects within 12 weeks of the closing date for applications. This objective is expected to be achieved again for the 2009/10 funding round.