

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION - PROMOTION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

330. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Science:

I refer to page 236 of the budget papers, division 12, Department of Industry and Resources, service 5 appropriation summary. According to this summary, the government has spent only \$40.215 million of a budget of \$71.341 million for 2006-07.

- (1) How does the government account for the \$31.126 million shortfall?
- (2) Which projects have been cut or delayed?
- (3) What is their cost?
- (4) When will these allocated funds be spent?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The funding shortfall represents a repositioning of funding for the affected programs as detailed below.

The answer to parts (2) to (4) is quite lengthy and sometimes tabular, so I table the answer and seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

[See paper 2737.]

The following material was incorporated -

- (2) The following programs have had their cash flows repositioned:

Program	Funds Repositioned \$'000	2007/08 \$'000	2008/09 \$'000	2010/11 \$'000
Innovate WA	6,965	6,965		
Science Initiatives	16,000			16,000
Centres of Excellence	5,318	2,058	2,510	750
Radio Astronomy	4,010	4,010		
Entrepreneurs in Residence	75	75		

The total of \$32.368m repositioned varies from the \$31.126m shown in the budget papers as a consequence of cash adjustments. (See note b for Service 5 page 236 of the Budget Papers)

For the Centres of Excellence and Innovate WA funding, there has been a repositioning due to some delay in approvals for projects to proceed and operating projects being delayed, often by recruitment difficulties in the current market, which in turn delayed milestone payments of grant moneys.

The Radio Astronomy \$4 million has been moved into next financial year because planned infrastructure acquisitions were not able to proceed as yet.

There have been approvals of nearly \$18 million from the science initiative funding. However \$16 million has been repositioned as those approvals could not be translated into payable grants until out years.

The Entrepreneurs in Residence repositioning is a consequence of the reporting requirement not aligning with the financial year and delaying payment.

In all cases no funding for these programs has been cut.

- (3-4) See answer to part (2).
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