

Inquiry into Electricity Supply, Demand and Prices in NSW

Questions on Notice – 10 October 2018

Question on Notice

The CHAIR: How much has been collected by the fund in the past 12 months and how much has been used for hardship situations or grants? I would like a breakdown of where that money has gone, or if it has gone.

Ms DUMAZEL: I will have to take the first question on notice because I do not have that—

Answer

In 2017-18 the Climate Change Fund (CCF) collected \$290,087,687 from electricity network distribution service providers and Sydney Water. CCF expenditure in 2017-18 was \$180.9 million.

This included \$11.5 million in funding for programs focused on low income, hardship and vulnerable households through the appliance replacement offer, social housing upgrades and energy hardship assist.

Unspent funds collected in 2017-18 have been re-allocated to future year budgets.

Question on Notice

The CHAIR: How do we define "low-income households"?

Ms DUMAZEL: Each program has criteria, but I do not have that information with me now.

The CHAIR: There is not a dollar figure?

Ms DUMAZEL: I do not know the answer.

The CHAIR: Can you provide the definition of a low-income household?

Ms DUMAZEL: I am happy to take that question on notice. Quite a lot of work occurs in the development of each of our programs to ensure they are targeted to those most in need and those who can benefit most.

Answer

Several Climate Change Fund programs are targeted to low income and vulnerable households. Each program has its own criteria. The criteria for these programs are listed below.

Appliance Replacement Offer – eligible participants must hold one of the following:

- Pensioner Concession Card
- Health Care Card or Low Income Health Care Card from Centrelink
- Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.

Social housing upgrades – the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) will partner with the providers of social, public and Aboriginal housing to provide energy efficiency upgrades.

Energy hardship assist – social housing tenants on energy hardship programs determined by their energy retailer.

Solar for Low Income Household Rebate recipients – a trial will be launched in five regions which will allow households who are eligible for the Low Income Household Rebate to forgo the rebate and instead receive a 2.5kW solar system.

Low-income renters program – OEH is consulting stakeholders and housing industry experts on the best ways to reach the homes where low income tenants live. Tenants will not be means tested.