

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
Answer to Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 5-1

Date: 13/07/2017

From: Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula

To: Hon. Gerald McCarthy

Portfolio: Housing & Community Development

Agency: Housing & Community Development

Subject: Funding for Solar Batteries

Answer

See attached

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 10 July 2017

Subject: Funding for Solar Batteries

From: Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula MLA

To: Hon Gerald McCarthy MLA

Agency: Housing and Community Development

Number: 5-1

Question:

The federal program Bushlight runs in many communities and is currently being maintained by Ingkerreke in Alice Springs. However, I understand there is no funding for new solar batteries available through this program. Solar batteries have a life of approximately seven years, which means many batteries are now due to be changed. Is there funding for replacement of these batteries?

Answer:

In 2016-17, the Department of Housing and Community Development spent \$6.744 million on homelands power projects. Of that amount, \$1.996 million was expended on projects that involved upgrades to solar systems and battery replacement in 26 separate locations. It is not possible to identify the investment into battery replacements alone because funds are provided for solar projects that may include battery replacement, upgrades to panels and replacement of inverters.

This year (2017-2018) the Department of Housing and Community Development has set aside \$1.5 million to continue this program.