



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE 13 November 2018

Asked by ELIZABETH LEE MLA:

In relation to: Renewable Energy Innovation Hub; ANU involvement

MS LEE: If you could just explain some of the other?

Mr Harding: Yes sure. So the fund is looking also, recognising as part of our renewable energy industry development strategy, that we cannot just focus on providing support just to one segment of the ecosystem, so support to start-ups and innovators.

We are mindful that a transition to a renewable energy led system requires trades people and so the fund is supporting the Canberra Institute of Technology and it's trade training centre of excellence. And so there is financial support there which is, you may recently have noticed that CIT is running a global wind organisation accredited wind training safety course.

And so I think the minister has been out there before and climbed up the working at heights tower. But that training—

MS LEE: We need your assurance.

Mr Harding: But that training is a great example where instead of wind farm development businesses that are Australian based are happy to send technicians to Denmark or elsewhere to learn to get their training they can do that here in Canberra. CIT is also looking to start running battery storage installation training later in the year.

And so that is a compliment to a range of skills already out in the local electrical occupations on solar. And so we are sort of seeing those opportunities for trades people to be part of the transition rather than just engineers and innovators.

One of the other really sort of figure head elements that the fund is supporting is through a \$5 million grant out of that \$12 million amount to the Australian National University. And so that is particularly a battery storage and integration research stream.

So we recently appoint Dr Lachlan Blackhall. So he is the former chief technology officer and one of the founders of Reposit Power. So, again, another Canberra local who has now left the private sector and

started a research group at ANU. And so the intent of that is to try and build a research capability here in Canberra but also to try and optimise the amount of investment and opportunity that comes with distributive battery storage.

So I mean obviously the government has a commitment to its next generation energy storage program and so having that research element based here provides a living laboratory if you like in Canberra to identify new economic opportunities that come from those programs and the utilisation of battery storage.

So—

MS LEE: Is that quote funded by ANU?

Mr Harding: Yes it is.

MS LEE: What is the amount that ANU—

Mr Harding: I do not have a number particularly in front of me but I am have it down.

MS LEE: If you can take that on notice.

Mr Harding: I can take that on notice. That is fine.

MINISTER RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

ANU is contributing \$3 million cash and in-kind over four years to the Battery Storage and Grid Integration Research Program. The ACT Government, through the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund, is contributing \$4 million over four years, with an option to provide an additional \$1 million (totalling \$5 million) subject to performance.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

25/11/18

By the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Shane Rattenbury MLA