

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 1

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 1

Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division

Topic: Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement

Hansard Page: 65

Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Milne asked:

Given the minister's remarks earlier, are you telling me that no money has been disbursed in 2013-14 to any of the programs in the Tasmanian forests intergovernmental agreement? Or have some been paid and, if so, what has been paid in this financial year?

Answer:

Funding under the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on the Tasmanian Forest Agreement 2013

Under the IGA, there a number of programmes that have received Australian Government funding within the specified period (between 1 July 2013 and 18 November 2013.) Within this period:

- The Department of Health has provided \$250,000 (GST exclusive) to Rural Alive and Well to deliver mental health counselling and community well-being services for forest workers and contractors, their families and employees of associated businesses adversely affected by the current forestry industry changes.
- The Department of Agriculture has provided \$200,000 (GST exclusive) to assist the Forest Stewardship Council of Australia to develop a national forest stewardship standard for Australia.
- The Department of Employment has provided:
 - I. \$156,967 (GST exclusive) under the Forest Industry in Tasmania Structural Adjustment Program, which has been used to provide intensive employment support through Job Services Australia to workers made redundant from eligible companies in the native forestry industry in Tasmania.
 - II. \$636,364 (GST exclusive) to ForestWorks, which has been used to provide intensive one-on-one support for forestry workers that have been made redundant as a result of the restructuring of the forestry industry in Tasmania.
- The total funding that has been provided under the IGA between 1 July 2013 and 18 November 2013 is \$1,243,331 (GST exclusive).

Additional payments in 2013-14

As per the terms and conditions of the National Partnership Agreement on the Implementation of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement 2013 (NPA) a Treasury-to-Treasury transfer of \$7,808,000 was provided on 7 December 2013. This payment included \$7 million for reserve management (indexed to CPI) and \$0.5 million to support the Special Council. This is the only payment that has been made under the National Partnership Agreement this financial year.