

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

Question No: 5

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 1

Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division

Topic: Biodiversity Fund Round 2 Projects

Hansard Page: 70

Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Milne asked:

Senator MILNE: For 2013-14 there was meant to be round 2 of the biodiversity fund, and applications had been called. How many applications did you have for round 2? And what was that worth at the time of the election?

Mr Sullivan: I do not have that detail with me, and part of the question that preceded this from your colleague was in relation to projects that went through that biodiversity fund round 2 process. A number of projects were contracted under that round. So, again, I will have to take on notice how many applications were received and then how many of those projects then moved to contracting over the forward estimates.

Senator MILNE: What I am trying to understand here is what is the fate of round 2 of the biodiversity fund. So perhaps you can just be specific here. Obviously applications were called. I would like to know the number of applicants. And then some were successful. What I am asking now is, as of today, are the projects that had been contracted going to be able to continue for the life of those projects? Or have you any that had not been actually signed up? Are they now not proceeding? What is the status of round 2 of the biodiversity fund?

Mr Sullivan: As I said, I will take on notice how many applications there were, and the assessment process, and then how many were recommended for funding.

Answer:

For Biodiversity Fund Round Two, applicants were invited to apply in two streams: a Single Stage Application process and an Expression of Interest (EOI) process dependent on the amount of funding applicants were seeking. In total 369 applications were received (including EOI and Single Stage Applications).

Specifically:

- 147 EOIs were received, with 26 invited to submit a full application.
 - 343 applications were received for the Single Stage Application process.
- Of the 369 applications, 21 projects were approved for funding by the previous government. The total dollar value of the 369 applications was \$576,505,099 (GST exclusive). The 21 projects approved had a total dollar value \$39,949,194 (GST exclusive). 18 of these projects were contracted prior to the election period and will proceed. Three projects were not contracted ahead of the election and in light of the Government's decision to terminate the programme in the context of the repeal of the carbon tax, these projects were not approved to proceed.