

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2013  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 74

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Grains Research and Development Corporation

**Topic:** Managing Climate Variability Program

**Proof Hansard page:** 110 (28/05/2013)

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

**Senator SIEWERT:** Can I ask for an update on the Managing Climate Variability Program, and ask about funding. You are the managing partner in that program, aren't you?

**Mr Harvey:** That is correct, yes. We are the managing partner, and we are putting significant funds into that program.

**Senator SIEWERT:** That is what I wanted to ask about—what level of funding you are putting in, and what time frame you have, continuing into the future time frame.

**Mr Harvey:** Senator Siewert, I would need to take that on notice. I need to check.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Can you tell me what the overall funding for the program is and whether it is permanently ongoing or whether there is a time frame to it?

**Mr Harvey:** We can get that to you.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Funding for each of the years—that would be fantastic, thank you.

**Answer:**

The Managing Climate Variability Program (MCVP) was created to increase Australia's capacity to capture opportunities and manage risks that emanate from climate variability. MCVP has been managed by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), on behalf of the Research and Development Corporation (RDC) partnership which includes Meat and Livestock Australia, the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and the Sugar Industries Research and Development Corporation (SRDC) since 26 June 2009. Funding for specific projects has also been provided in the past by research/industry organisations, such as the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC) and Horticulture Australia Limited.

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The total funds allocated by MCVP partners in Phases I, II and III (from 2004 to 2013) and projected investment for MCVP IV are shown in the table below:

**Table 1 RDC contributions to MCVP**

Contributing Organisation	RDC contributions to MCV for year ending June			
	MCV I 2004-7	MCVII 2008-10	MCV III 2011-13	Preliminary MCV IV 2014-16
<b>RDC Investment</b>				
LWA	\$400,000			
GRDC (MCV IV funding TBC)	\$2,723,947	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	\$1,400,000
RIRDC	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
SRDC	\$155,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
MLA	\$200,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
DA	\$300,000			\$270,000
HAL			\$60,000	
GWRDC			\$110,000	
CRDC				\$150,000
<b>RDC investment in Climate Champions subprogram</b>				
MLA			\$96,000	\$120,000
CRDC				\$14,000
AWI			\$39,000	\$24,000
<b>Government grants</b>				
DAFF/NHT	\$2,000,000	\$55,000		
DEH	\$500,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,478,947</b>	<b>\$3,055,000</b>	<b>\$3,305,000</b>	<b>\$2,878,000</b>

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The table below provides a yearly breakdown of funds allocated by MCVP partners for Phase III of the program:

**Table 2 – RDC contributions to MCVP III by financial year**

Organisation	RDC contributions to MCV for year ending June			
	MCV III			
	2011	2012	2013	Total
LWA				
GRDC	700,000	700,000	700,000	2,100,000
RIRDC	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
SRDC	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
MLA	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000
DA	0	0	0	0
HAL	60000			60,000
GWRDC	55000	55000		110,000
CRDC	0	0	0	0
				0
MA	48000	32000	16,000	96,000
CRDC				0
AWI		7000	32000	39,000
DAFF/NHT				0
DEH				0
Total	1,163,000	1,094,000	1,048,000	3,305,000

Note: Additional funding of \$2.6 million was allocated to projects during Phase III. This money was sourced from accumulated revenue, namely interest accrued.

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Additional funding provided for specific research projects under the MCVP, by non MCVP partners, is outlined below:

**Table 3 – Contributions by non MCVP partners by financial year**

MCV III	
Year ending June	Researchers and Others
2011	1,864,919
2012	1,652,029
2013	600,827
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,117,775</b>

**Ongoing Commitment:**

As you will see from the table above, the fourth phase of the program (MCVP phase IV) has an indicative total budget of \$2.9 million, which will be finalised with the signing of a new services agreement. Phase IV will run until June 2016, coordinating research, development and extension (including communication) efforts to assist primary producers and natural resource managers to mitigate against the risks and exploit opportunities, associated with Australia's variable and changing climate. It is envisaged that additional phases of MCVP (i.e. post June 2016) would be planned and executed following the review of industry requirements and based on an evaluation of the existing program.