

Landcare inquiry, Canberra hearing, 29 August

Rangeland NRM Alliance answer to question on notice

In our hearing with the Senate Inquiry we were asked if we could quantify the effects of the current cuts to the NRM budget in terms of employment and Indigenous NRM activities.

After speaking to many of the regions involved with the Rangeland NRM Alliance it is difficult to quantify numbers of positions which may be lost due to the reduction in allocation. There are a number of reasons for this including:

- the differences in the way that regional bodies manage their delivery model
- the size of the regional body - small regional bodies have difficult decisions to make regarding retaining staff vs adjusting activities, larger bodies do have some more ability to ride out a small reduction in staff numbers.
- waiting for the guidelines for the National Landcare Program before making decisions
- all those I spoke to confirmed that a reduction in funding will either mean a reduction in staff and/or a reduction in activities

The impact on Indigenous land management activities also varies across the country. A number of regions have or are discussing options for integrating Green Army activities with Working on Country and Ranger programs with the Minister's office, Department staff and Green Army service providers and it is clear that there is not a clear path at this time.