

National Farmers' Federation – Answers to questions taken on notice at public hearing, Canberra, 4 May 2021

1. Do you know how many farmers' submissions were made? (*Senator Hanson-Young, Proof Hansard p. 8*)

More than 3,000 unique submissions were received, as well as around 26,000 largely identical contributions on the Discussion Paper, and around 840 submissions on the Interim Report. It is not feasible nor practical to filter out the number of submissions to identify which submissions were farmers. The website's filter also does not allow submissions to be categorised by 'farmer'.

NFF closely consulted with our members and developed a consolidated and detailed submission with their engagement and support. Our members represent:

- New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory, Tasmania, and Western Australia
- Cattle, Grains, Cotton, Rice, Horticulture, Pork, Dairy, Cane, Livestock Exporters, Wool, Forestry, Sheep meat

The NFF submission was developed not only on behalf of our members, but also for those who do not have the understanding, time or capacity to provide a submission.

2. If you could take on notice perhaps a little outline of what has been spent and what is left, that would be great. (*Senator Hanson-Young, Proof Hansard p. 9*)

The NFF received grant funding for a project titled Grant to assist NFF involvement in the EPBC Act review. This was funded under the Smart Farms Building Landcare Community and Capacity program. The grant is for \$150,000 including GST (\$136,363.64 net). The key contracted activity areas are:

1. Increasing awareness in the farming community of the EPBC Act;
2. Undertaking surveys and consultation with the farm sector. Including comprehensive communication and coordination of key stakeholders views;
3. Seek legal advice on relevant implications of the EPBC;
4. Act as a central repository of farm sector engagement in the statutory review process.

The funding has been broadly used for the research in two areas, a literature review into the Australian context and comparing to other multi-level governance regimes. A look at alternate world's practice in this field. We have also conducted a couple of case studies into the opportunity costs of EPBC application processes. The balance of the work has been to support NFF's engagement with our members through a comprehensive. Ongoing and iterative stakeholder engagement process of several committee meetings and several drafts of what ultimately was a combined 96 page submission that had engaged all jurisdictions and commodities within the NFF family. The residual funds will be targeted at activity 1 and 3 (if necessary). We have spent around \$45,000 of the funds.