

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Indigenous Rangers Program

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore

Question reference number: 241

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- 1 – What are the details of the total funding for the Indigenous Rangers Program in the forward estimates?
- 2 - What is the funding per annum?
- 3 - Does funding for this program continue beyond the forward estimates?
- 4 - The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has given a public commitment to extend contracts for this program for two years from June 2018. Will that commitment now be revised to extend the contracts for at least the period of the forward estimates?
- 5 - Given the impressive outcomes from this program, has the Department conducted any modelling to determine the benefits of expanding the program?

Answer:

1. Funding for Indigenous rangers is provided under Programme 2.1 Jobs, Land and Economy. As at May 2017, the notional funding allocation for the Environment activities including Indigenous rangers in 2018-19 is \$96.5 million and in 2019-20 is \$97.5 million. Funding allocations for Indigenous rangers within Programme 2.1 beyond June 2020 have not yet been allocated.
2. Funding committed to Indigenous ranger groups in 2016-17 is approximately \$76 million. The Commonwealth Government has committed more than \$550 million over a seven-year period from 2013-14 to 2019-20 to fund Indigenous rangers.
3. The Jobs, Land and Economy Programme is an ongoing programme. Funding beyond the forward estimates will be allocated as part of the Budget process.
4. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has committed to fund Indigenous ranger groups to 30 June 2020. Any decision to extend Indigenous ranger funding beyond this period will be a decision for the Government in the future.

5. Recent evaluations such as the 2016 Social Return on Investment project indicate that, together with the Indigenous Protected Areas programme, investment in Indigenous ranger groups has begun to stimulate the development of an Indigenous land and sea based economy, empowering Indigenous landowners to manage their country in accordance with their priorities.

Under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) applications for Community-led Grants can be received at any time. The Department assesses applications against IAS criteria including the need for the project, key project outcomes and whether there is community support from the Indigenous community where the project will occur. Since funding for Indigenous rangers became part of the IAS, more than \$14 million of additional funding has been committed to support new and existing Indigenous ranger groups (at May 2017).