

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

Question No: 27
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Indigenous Protected Areas
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

1. In reference to question 17, accounting for Indigenous Protected Areas, does the Government have any plans to add to the 500,000 hectares it has added to Australia's Reserve Estate since 1 July 2013, considering it has allowed the previous Government's dedicated property acquisition programme for the creation of protected areas to lapse?
2. How many hectares will it be purchasing?
3. Where are those properties located?
4. What are they protecting?
5. Were any of those 500,000 hectares added without Commonwealth assistance?

Answer:

1. Whilst there is currently no dedicated property acquisition programme for the creation of protected areas, the Australian Government is investing more than \$2 billion over four years in managing our natural resources. This includes investment in the National Landcare Programme, Green Army Programme, Working on Country, Reef 2050 and continuing investment in the Land Sector Package.

States and territories are primarily responsible for the establishment and management of National Reserve System properties in Australia. It is anticipated that State and Territories will continue to add areas to the National Reserve System.

The Australian Government has provided funding for the acquisition of land and/or the establishment of conservation agreements on threatened land in the Greater Western Sydney area. This funding may result in some areas of the Cumberland Plains of western Sydney being included in the National Reserve System.

2. The Australian Government has met its NRS targets and has no set target for additional hectares to be added to the NRS.
3. The location of any future additions to the NRS will be an issue for state and territory governments.
4. The values that will be protected in any future additions to the NRS will be an issue for state and territory governments.
5. Yes.