

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

**Question No:** 5  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** National Landcare Program  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 3 March 2015  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

1. Is there any discretionary money in the National Landcare Budget?
2. How is this used and how is it broken down over the forward estimates?

**Answer:**

1. Funding within the National Landcare Programme is at the discretion of the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board within the parameters of the National Landcare Programme. While notionally allocated against streams within the Programme, the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board has capacity to utilise uncontracted National Landcare Programme funds at its discretion.
2. There are a number of processes currently underway to commit National Landcare Programme funds across the Forward Estimates including for the 20 Million Trees Programme, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare Grants and Regional Delivery. As at 28 February 2015 there is currently \$207.2 million contractually uncommitted within the National Landcare Programme budget (see table 1 below).

Table 1: National Landcare Programme Funds contractually uncommitted over the Forward Estimates (as at 28 February 2015):

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
32.2	55.9	61.3	57.9	207.2

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.