

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

**Question No:** 1  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Yellow Crazy Ants  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 24 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

1. Is it the Department's view that the YCA be eradicated?
2. Do you view the YCA as eradicable at the WTWHA?
3. I know there is a lot of local community support for the eradication efforts – have you spoken with the Qld Govt and Department of Agriculture?

**Answer:**

1. The Department would need to assess a feasibility analysis before having a view as to whether it is possible to eradicate an infestation of pests such as yellow crazy ant. A feasibility analysis includes detailed advice on aspects of an infestation such as:
  - the capability to accurately diagnose or identify the pest
  - the known area of infestation
  - the effectiveness of the control technique options, including a recommendation on the control technique likely to be the most cost-effective in eradicating the pest
  - the level of confidence that all individual pests (including at all life stages) can be destroyed by the recommended control techniques
  - surveillance activities that are in place or could be put in place to confirm proof-of-freedom for sites possibly infested by the pest
  - the level of confidence that it is possible to remove the organisms at a faster rate than they can propagate until the population is reduced to a non-viable density
  - the level of confidence that the organism is detectable at very low densities (to help determine if eradication has been achieved), and that all sites affected by the outbreak have or can be found
  - the dispersal ability of the organism (that is, whether the organism is capable of rapid spread over large distances)
2. Please refer to the response at Question 1.

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3. The Minister has written formally to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP and Queensland State Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, the Hon Dr Steven Miles seeking their support to ensure ongoing protection of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. A response is yet to be received.