

**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:** Green Army Programme funding reduction  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 16 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Siewert asked:**

1. What has been the total reduction in funding to the Green Army program since its announcement?
2. What are the current numbers of:
  - a. People registered in Green Army programs?
  - b. How many people were supposed to be involved in the program under the original funding? How many will be involved in the program under the reduced funding?
  - c. How many people have moved into employment? Please provide full time and part time outcomes.
  - d. What level of certification of training are participants receiving?
  - e. What actual environment outcomes have been achieved? Please provide details.
  - f. What assistance has been provided to Landcare programs?
  - g. Please provide the cost to date of the program?

**Answer:**

- 1. What has been the total reduction in funding to the Green Army program since its announcement?**

The Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook for 2015-2016 reported a saving of \$317.5 million for the Green Army Programme over the four years from 2015-16.

- 2. What are the current numbers of:**

- a. People registered in Green Army programs?**

As at 31 December 2015, 4,725 participants (excluding Team Supervisors) had been engaged in Green Army projects.

**b. How many people were supposed to be involved in the program under the original funding? How many will be involved in the program under the reduced funding?**

The Programme was originally planned to build to 1,500 projects engaging 15,000 young people per year from 2018-19. The revised project profile of 500 projects per year will engage 5000 young people per year in the Green Army Programme.

**c. How many people have moved into employment? Please provide full time and part time outcomes.**

As the Green Army is an environmental programme the Department does not collect employment data on Participants after they leave the programme.

**d. What level of certification of training are participants receiving?**

Participants gain a variety of qualifications under the Green Army Programme by undertaking a diverse range of training activities. Every participant undertakes mandatory training in first aid and work health & safety. Participants and Service Providers negotiate individual training plans that meet the needs of each participant, considering prior learning, existing skills and any special needs. Individual training plans include opportunities for vocationally oriented accredited training qualifications or nationally endorsed skill sets, based on individual learning needs and the activities of the team. Most Participants undertake 2-6 units towards a Certificate II qualification.

Some of the nationally recognised training units being achieved by participants to date include: Apply chemicals under supervision; Undertake propagation activities; Treat Weeds; Carry out natural area restoration works; Follow OHS procedures; Provide First Aid; Recognise plants; Use routine strategies for work related learning; Plant Trees and Shrubs; Work safely in the construction industry; Trim and cross cut felled trees; Operate and maintain chainsaws; Follow basic chemical safety rules; Operate basic machinery and equipment; Install, Maintain and Repair Fencing; and Maintain cultural places.

**e. What actual environment outcomes have been achieved? Please provide details.**

Green Army projects include restoring native vegetation, protecting animal habitats, regenerating wetlands and protecting threatened species in urban rural and remote areas. When asked, 94% of Green Army Project Hosts said that they anticipated their Green Army project would result in the intended environmental and/or heritage outcomes.

To date, 583 approved projects involve activities aimed at protecting threatened species and 304 approved projects involve activities aimed at increasing native vegetation. These projects include activities such as habitat conservation, pest eradication and flora and fauna surveys. Completed Green Army projects report on activities and achievements in MERIT, which is available to the public at: <https://fieldcapture.ala.org.au/>

**f. What assistance has been provided to Landcare programs?**

As at 31 December 2015, a total of 74 Green Army projects are being hosted by Landcare groups, with many more projects being supported by Landcare groups.

**g. Please provide the cost to date of the program?**

2014-15 – Expensed (\$M) – \$41.436

2015-16 – Appropriation (\$M) - \$90.867