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

Question No: 279

Hearing: Additional Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 1

Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)

Topic: Green Army and 20 Million Trees funding

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Question Date: 04 March 2016

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: Can someone from the department provide us with a breakdown of this extra $59 million—how it relates directly to threatened species and each of the programs it is coming from—so we can get an accurate understanding and this is not fluffed up with other funding.

Mr Dadswell: Under Green Army round 4, of the 397 projects approved, 311 of them directly addressed threatened species outcomes.

Senator SINGH: That is fine. But someone here has come to a figure of $59 million. I am trying to understand how that figure has come about and whether it is directly related to threatened species—or whether there is even 10 per cent or more that is not related to threatened species. The minister said yesterday that there is an increase of $59 million for threatened species.

Mr Andrews: I would be delighted to take responsibility for that. I take responsibility also for any confusion—that is my fault because I am not prepared today. We made the announcement yesterday. As a public servant, it is not my job to pre-announce things for the minister. So, until the minister announced the latest total figure, I could not announce it. I can get that information to you. ...

Answer:

- The table below provides a breakdown of the additional $59.8 million investment.

Programme	Number of projects addressing threatened species /threatened ecological communities (as at 17 December 2015)	Amount
Green Army Round 4	311	$54.9m *
20 Million Trees Programme Grants - Round 2	63	$ 4.9m
Total	374	$59.8m

* Figures provided for the Green Army are approximate and are calculated on the 2015-16 indexed figure of $176,732 per project.