

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

Question No: 16
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Science
Topic: Wombat mange
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: I have some questions about wombat mange, particularly in Tasmania. What role does the federal government have in researching and treating sarcoptic mange in Tasmania's wombat population?

Ms Cherry: Off the top of my head, I think we will have to take that on notice. There are 152 projects under the National Environmental Science program. A number of those are dealing with threatened species, but off the top of my head I could not tell you if one of them deals with treating mange.

Senator URQUHART: I have a couple of other questions. If you need to take them on notice, that is fine, but I would appreciate a quick response if possible. What funding has the federal government provided to help combat the outbreak of mange in Tasmania? If there has been any funding, who has it been provided to? Has the federal government been approached by the state government or any other organisation for funding for mange?

Mr Thompson: I do not think we have that information on us, so we will take those questions on notice. We obviously invest in supporting threatened species, as Ms Cherry said, in particular through the National Environmental Science program which supports six hubs, one of which is a threatened species recovery hub. It may have made some investments or done some work, including with the Tasmanian government, on that issue. But we will confirm that.

Answer:

The Department of the Environment and Energy has not funded any projects on wombat mange in Tasmania. The Department has not been approached by the state government or other organisations for funding for wombat mange.