

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 2
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Funding for biodiversity related programs
Hansard Page: 104
Question Date: 27 February 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Yes, we did too—sorry, it has been a long day! I do not think I asked this one this morning. What has been the annual level for funding for the biodiversity related program from 2012-13 to 2017-18?

Mr Dadswell: Are you talking about bio fund?

Senator URQUHART: The annual level of funding for biodiversity from 2012-13 to 2017-18.

Mr Dadswell: I do not have those figures with me.

Mr Knudson: We can certainly come back on notice. I want to understand the reach of your question. You want to understand what departmental and administered funding we have with respect to biodiversity over those years?

Senator URQUHART: Yes. With the axing of the Green Army program, I understand there will be a final audit review of what was achieved under the program, particularly the environmental benefits, including in terms of such criteria as the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030. Is that correct?

Mr Dadswell: Not under the Green Army program.

Senator URQUHART: No, but with the axing of that program.

Answer:

The Australian Government's annual level of funding for biodiversity related programs is \$420.853 million in 2012-13; \$478.029 million in 2013-14; \$409.333 million in 2014-15; \$431.624 million in 2015-16; \$418.864 million in 2016-17 and \$354.970 million in 2017-18.

Biodiversity related programs are taken to be National Landcare Program, Caring for our Country, Green Army Program, Reef Trust, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Biodiversity Fund, Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change - Stream 1 and Stream 2, Australian Climate Change Science Program, National Environmental Research Program and the National Environmental Science Program.