

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

Question No: 16
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division
Topic: UNALLOCATED FUNDS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 16 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. Does the Government intend to allocate some the environment funding to landcare and NRM?
2. If so how much?
3. What programs will be funded out of the remaining \$173.9 million in unallocated funds in the National Landcare program (environment)?

Answer:

The Government is investing \$2 billion over four years to manage our natural resources, including investments in the National Landcare Programme and complementary initiatives such as the Green Army Programme, Reef 2050 Plan, Whale and Dolphin Protection Plan, Working on Country, the Land Sector Package and investments in the Great Barrier Reef Trust.

The National Landcare Programme's component of this budget totals \$1 billion over four years. This funding will support a range of natural resource management measures including support for small projects (including landcare groups).

Of the environment component of the National Landcare Programme, \$173.9 million is currently contractually uncommitted. A number of measures announced through the 2014-15 Budget will be funded from this. These measures are:

- a. \$50 million for the 20 Million Trees Programme
- b. \$9.3 million for Coastal River Recovery Initiatives
- c. \$3.0 million for the Dandenong Ranges Programme
- d. \$7.5 million for the Cumberland Conservation Corridor
- e. \$600,000 for Keep Australia Beautiful and Clean Up Australia
- f. \$500,000 for Kimberley Cane Toad Clean Up
- g. \$1.4 million for the Whale and Dolphin Protection Plan

The remaining uncommitted funds managed by the Department of the Environment will predominantly be directed towards funding for regional natural resource management organisations under the regional stream of the programme.