

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

Question No: 32
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division
Topic: SAVINGS RELATED TO THE NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME
Hansard Page: 85
Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: So that \$400,000 in savings is not just linked to the stewardship program? It could be cuts?

Mr Thompson: No, Mr Sullivan is right in saying it is linked to the stewardship program. What I am pointing to is that there is a broader range of savings which come through as a result of decisions by the previous government and decisions in the budget which will translate into savings.

Senator URQUHART: So it is the stewardship program and—what are the other areas?

Mr Thompson: They are other savings related to the National Landcare Program. I do not have the numbers in front of me about how that translates. We are still working that through—how that transfers through into reductions in departmental expenses and reductions in staff.

Senator URQUHART: Are you able to provide that on notice?

Mr Thompson: We can seek to provide some clarity around that.

Answer:

The National Landcare Programme measure appearing in Table 1.2 on page 23 of the Department of the Environment's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements identifies reductions over five years of \$397.2 million from the Natural Heritage Trust and \$25.8 million from the Environmental Stewardship appropriation.

The \$25.8 million in reductions applied to Environmental Stewardship over five years includes a reduction in Departmental resources totalling \$3.097 million.