

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

Question No: 50
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: HERITAGE FUNDING
Hansard Page: 30
Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters, Larissa asked:

Senator WATERS: In relation to the heritage funding, I note that there will be a reduction from \$41.5 million to \$32 million. What are the implications of that cut? What work will not proceed?

Mr Oxley: Senator, can you give me a reference to where you are drawing that number?

Senator WATERS: No, unfortunately I cannot.

Mr Oxley: I am not aware of the reduction you are referring to.

Senator WATERS: It is in the portfolio budget statement, but I do not have a page number here, I am sorry.

Dr de Brouwer: Could you repeat it, Senator?

Senator WATERS: It is the heritage funding to be cut from \$41.5 million to \$32 million.

Mr Oxley: We are on page 34 of the portfolio budget statement. It is the total funding for program 1.4, which is reducing by the amount you have identified, Senator.

Senator WATERS: Which heritage work will you not proceed with as a result of that cut?

Mr Oxley: Outcome 1.4 is a very broad outcome and I am not in a position now where I can advise you on that. I will need to take that on notice.

Answer:

The reduction shown on page 34 of the PBS relates to all of Programme 1.4 and is not specific to Heritage. This programme also covers a wide range of activities related to biodiversity conservation (see, for example, the objectives and deliverables for Programme 1.4 in the PBS). The breakdown of the reduction is as follows:

- \$2.252 million reduction in own source revenue earned by the Department from a range of sources, including the former AusAID and UNESCO.
- \$871,000 reduction in heritage programme funding related primarily to the transfer of administered Indigenous heritage programme funding to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- \$5.606 million reduction representing a proportion of the overall reduction in the Department's appropriation for 2014-15, including for corporate services to the divisions responsible for Programme 1.4, and a small reduction in external revenue from independent sources.

The divisions responsible for Programme 1.4 are currently undertaking business planning for 2014-15 and therefore unable at this time to identify what work will be prioritised within the reduced budget.