

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

Question No: 7
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division
Topic: 20 MILLION TREES PROGRAMME - MODELLING
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 10 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Could you provide any figures or modelling you have, or have had done, on survival rates of planned tree plantings, in relation to the 20 Million Trees program?

Answer:

The Department is considering tree survivability in designing the 20 Million Trees Programme. In particular the Department has considered tree survival rates from previous programmes administered by the Australian Government, state and territory governments, non-government organisations and community groups. Given the 20 Million Trees Programme will support plantings across diverse regions of Australia no one metric or model for estimating tree survival rates can be applied at the Programme level.

Based on the experiences of previous tree planting initiatives, climate variability (including drought), site preparation activities and site maintenance activities are critical factors that can influence tree survivability. To improve tree survivability rates, the 20 Million Trees Programme will stagger tree-planting activities over multiple plantings seasons and will seek to fund projects that demonstrate a strong commitment to site preparation and site maintenance activities, which at the practical level will vary across different regions of Australia.