

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

Question No: 25
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: WHALE AND DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN
Hansard Page: 73
Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Pratt asked:

Senator PRATT: I understand the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan comes under program 1.1—I think the funding is listed in table 1.2 on page 24. I think it has a total funding of just over half a million dollars over three years. The developing plan is listed as a deliverable under program 1.4. So it is not clear to me to which program this question is best directed. I will start there. Before the election, Minister Hunt pledged \$2 million towards a whale and dolphin action plan. Since the budget, there have been claims in the media of \$2 million for this initiative. However, as far as I can tell, the budget statements appear to only commit \$0.6 million over the forward estimates. Can you tell me where the money is in the budget and confirm the actual amount of funding that is available for this plan?

Mr Thompson: If it is possible, can we come back to that in program 1.1?

Senator PRATT: Yes.

Mr Thompson: We will try to get you an answer. That program is administered by our Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division colleagues. If possible, we will come back to you with an answer on that.

Answer:

The Australian Government has committed \$2 million to implement the Whale and Dolphin Protection Plan.

Page 28 of the Environment Portfolio Budget Statements 2014-15 notes that funding of \$2 million over three years from 2014-15 for the Whale and Dolphin Protection Plan measure will be sourced from existing resources within the *National Landcare Programme*.

Of this funding \$0.6 million will be appropriated to the Department of the Treasury under Federal Financial Relations arrangements to deliver programme funding to the states and territories. It is this appropriation to the Treasury (\$584,000) which is referenced in Table 1.2 on page 24.