

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

Question No: 38
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: National Landcare Program – reduced funding
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Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Landcare is a proven and popular method of community engagement and action resulting in environmental restoration. Given Landcare is a key plank in the government's long term approach to land management, why has its funding been reduced in successive budgets?

Answer:

- The Government remains committed to the \$1 billion National Landcare Programme, which is based on the principles of simple, local and long-term and supports communities to take practical action to protect and manage Australia's important environmental assets and productive landscapes.
- The National Landcare Programme is comprised of a regional stream and a national stream. Under the regional stream, over \$450 million will be provided to Australia's 56 regional NRM organisations and they, in consultation with local community groups, have a greater say in determining local and regional priorities that align with the programme's strategic objectives and outcomes.
- The national stream also supports a number of important initiatives such as the 20 Million Trees Programme, the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants and Landcare Networks, as well as continuing commitments such as World Heritage and Indigenous Protected Areas.
- To return the Budget to a sustainable footing, the Government has had to make some difficult decisions to identify savings and efficiencies over the longer term. Some of these savings have been returned to the Budget and some have been redirected to important initiatives such the Coalition Government's Reef Trust.