

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

Question No: 41
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Australian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy – research information
Hansard Page:
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

I note the growing and various amount of climate change information and scenarios that have been developed across Government and in Research - how has this information been incorporated into the National Reserve Strategy and Australian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy? In particular, how are the well-understood changes that will occur in reserves and the biodiversity space generally being addressed to ensure these values are maintained in an appropriate way?

Answer:

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 (the Strategy) recognises climate change as a key threat, increasing the rate at which we are losing biodiversity by amplifying existing pressures and introducing new challenges.

The Strategy identifies the need to build ecosystem resilience in a changing climate as one of its three national priorities for action – by rapidly and effectively reducing human-induced elements of climate change and adapting the way we manage biodiversity to meet existing and new threats – to help stop the decline of Australia's biodiversity.

The inbuilt 2015 Review, recently commenced across all levels of government, provides an avenue to assess progress in implementing the Strategy, including how scientific information is guiding our implementation efforts.

National Reserve System

The strategy for the National Reserve System includes protecting critical sites for climate change resilience as one of its four targets.

Under Stream 2 of the NRM Planning for Climate Change Fund, research teams are working with regional natural resource management organisations to provide targeted information on the potential impacts of climate change, such as changes to water availability and the distribution of native and invasive species. The research teams are also providing support to help NRM planners to integrate this information into planning and on-ground activities. In addition, the updated 'Climate Change in Australia' website delivered under the programme provides unprecedented access to climate change projections data alongside user-friendly tools to explore regional climate change and support adaptation planning.