

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

Question No: 48
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity and Conservation Division
Topic: 20 Million Trees
Hansard Page:
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

How many trees have been established by the program to date? Where are the main plantings, and of what species of tree?

Have any of these projects been adequately fenced?

Was a consultation process undertaken with community and practitioner stakeholders on the need for fencing? If not, why not?

Has fencing been made a co-investment component of the small-grants program? If not, why not? If none, what protections are there for these trees and nascent wildlife corridors, and the wildlife within them?

Answer:

- To date 8.98 million trees have been contracted under the 20 Million Trees Programme (to 2018).
- The plantings will occur across 57 approved grant projects and 22 service provider projects in six states. The type of planting and species is dependent on local appropriate native vegetation.
- Under grant Round One projects, fencing can be delivered using financial or in-kind contributions, or where it was to be resourced through other Australian Government programmes such as the National Landcare Programme or Green Army Programme.
- All 20 Million Trees grant and service provider projects were assessed on merit, including maintenance activities to ensure tree survival. For some projects, this included co-contributions for fencing.
- A number of community consultation processes have been undertaken on the 20 Million Trees Programme including:
 - Between 19 June and 31 July 2014 a Request for Information was undertaken to inform the design of the 20 Million Trees Programme. The Department sought information on best practice revegetation design and processes. A range of organisations including industry bodies and non-government organisations provided responses to the request, including on the need for fencing.
 - During August 2014 Departmental officers conducted a National Landcare Programme community consultation process to inform individuals, community groups, and industry of the opportunities within the Programme and to seek feedback from those stakeholders on the design of the Programme.

- In addition, during early 2015, Green Army information sessions were undertaken by Departmental officers at cities and regional centres across the country. At a number of these sessions, Departmental officers presented on the 20 Million Trees Programme and received feedback from the community.