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

Question No:	54
Hearing:	Budget Estimates
Outcome:	Outcome 1.1
Programme:	Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Торіс:	Threatened Species Commissioner – research priorities
Hansard Page:	
Question Date:	

Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

What are the research priorities for the Threatened Species National Environmental Science Programme hub? What work will it be undertaking to contribute to threat identification and cost-effective responses?

Answer:

The research priorities for the National Environmental Science Programme Threatened Species Recovery Hub are below and can be accessed at www.environment.gov.au/nesp/about. The research priorities for the hub directly address threat identification and effective responses.

Effective on-ground responses to reduce threats and promote recovery of threatened species

- The development and direct trial of practical techniques for the recovery of identified threatened species to underpin on-ground management. Including the development and trial of practical actions for recovery of at least 10 of the highest priority threatened species and the trial of exclusion/enclosure methods.
- The development and direct trial of practical techniques for the restoration of degraded habitat and re-establishing natural succession processes.
- Demonstrate the costs/benefits and effectiveness of methods to mitigate the impact of invasive predators, plants and disease.
- Demonstrating how to more efficiently use water management and flow regimes to benefit threatened species.

Better understanding, measuring and reporting on the condition and trend of threatened species

- Meaningful and accessible information on trends in threatened species, to inform the targeting of Government investment and build community awareness and support
- Early warning tools for extinction risk and identification of the most at risk species.
- Better prediction of threatened species trajectories, for example using indicators, proxies, triggers and thresholds.
- Improved information on the distribution of threatened species and ecological communities to better pinpoint their location. Including the review of current species distribution models, and incorporating the capacity for species to adapt to climate change.

Using social and economic opportunities for threatened species recovery

- Identifying better ways to use offsets under the EPBC Act to conserve threatened species.
- Identifying better methods for communication and community buy-in to threatened species issues including threatened species listing, and initiatives to engage the community in the protection of our threatened species.
- Opportunities for mutual benefit to threatened species and business in a streamlined regulatory environment.
- Collaborations with, and participation of, Indigenous people in threatened species research and management.
- The role of citizen science in threatened species conservation and in building greater community support for threatened species management.