

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

Question No: 64
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: National Reserve System
Hansard Page:
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Does the Government accept that a reserve system in which so many ecosystems and species remain unprotected cannot be considered ecologically representative no matter if its 17% of land area?

If the Government has no funding for acquisition of land for new protected areas, how will it be possible for the government to ensure that the reserve system is ecologically representative as committed to by Australia under the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi target 11?

Answer:

1. The Department considers that the target of protecting 17 per cent of terrestrial land by 2020 has broadly been met, but accepts that some bioregions could be considered under-represented.
2. The Department is holding discussions with conservation partners, including State and Territory governments to identify opportunities for improving the management practices of our protected areas and the quality of the reserve estate.