

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

**Question No:** 01  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Reef Funding  
**Hansard Page:** 29  
**Question Date:** 05 May 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters, Larissa asked:**

Officials were very clear that this is new money for the reef—new money that was not allocated to any other specific environmental purpose.

**Senator WATERS:** Why then is there a reference in the budget papers talking not about the Natural Heritage Trust, which I understand is the bucket that then gets divvied off into specific projects? Why do the budget papers talk about \$101 million being met from the existing resources of the National Landcare Program? Are you saying that that is not the case?

**Ms Jonasson:** The National Landcare Program comprises the Natural Heritage Trust, but this was not money that was allocated to any existing programs or projects, so we have not made cuts to any existing programs or projects. It is ongoing funding in the budget papers, which is why it did not show up in the forward estimates. But it is ongoing funding and what the government has done is made an allocation decision to a priority area of the reef for \$101 million.

**Senator WATERS:** What proportion of the National Landcare Program is that \$101 million?

**Ms Jonasson:** I will have to get back to you on that. It depends on the profile each year of the funding and that sort of thing, but I can take that on notice and get back to you.

**Answer:**

The Reef 2050 Plan and Reef Trust measure announced through the 2016-17 Budget provides an \$171 million over six years. The Government will provide \$70 million to the Reef Trust. An allocation of \$101 million from the existing resources of the National Landcare Program – Natural Heritage Trust will be provided to the Reef 2050 Plan over six years.

The allocation of \$101 million comprises:

- \$35.5 million, or around 4 per cent of the National Landcare Programme over the four years to 2019-20; and
- \$65.5 million over two years from 2020-21 to 2021-22. This funding as a proportion of the National Landcare Programme cannot be estimated as overall funding for the National Landcare Programme beyond the forward estimates is a matter for the Government.