

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 35  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Program:** Policy Analysis and Implementation (PAAI)  
**Topic:** Environment Funding  
**Hansard Page:**  
**Question Date:** 07 June 2017  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) estimates that by 2019 Federal Environment Funding will have declined by 38 % on 2013 levels and that national biodiversity funding has fallen to its lowest level in more than a decade with government expenditure being just 5 cents in every dollar on conservation.

Does the Department agree with these figures?, if not why not? , and what is the Department's estimate of environment spending changes from 2013 to 2019?

**Answer:**

The Department is not aware of how the Australian Conservation Foundation derived its estimates.

Each year, Budget Paper No. 1 reports expenses for environment protection, and national estate and parks. Reported expenses over the period in question are shown in the table below.

The decline in spending on environment protection between 2013-14 and 2014-15 is primarily due to the termination of programs associated with the carbon tax.

Budget paper No.1 also reports expenses for natural resources development, some of which supports environment-related activities (e.g. the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office) or enables environmental outcomes (e.g. water resource infrastructure).

**Expenses for federal environment funding 2013-14 to 2020-21**

<b>Expenses and Net Capital Investment</b>	<b>2013-14 (\$m)</b>	<b>2014-15 (\$m)</b>	<b>2015-16 (\$m)</b>	<b>2016-17 (\$m)</b>	<b>2017-18 (\$m)</b>	<b>2018-19 (\$m)</b>	<b>2019-20 (\$m)</b>	<b>2020-21 (\$m)</b>
Environment Protection	4521	858	895	904	909	855	894	853
National estate and parks	395	390	380	414	411	388	392	428
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4916</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>1275</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>1320</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>1286</b>	<b>1281</b>

Source: Budget Paper No.1 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17; 2017-18