

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

Question No: 47
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Funding of Indigenous protected areas
Hansard Page: 67 and 68
Question Date: 22 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Chisholm asked:

Senator CHISHOLM: Is it correct that there are currently 75 Indigenous protected areas operating across Australia at the moment?

Ms Campbell: I will have to get the numbers. That number sounds about right. I think there are 75. We are currently providing funding for the support and declaration of management of 70 of those properties.

Senator CHISHOLM: And 18 in planning or development stages as part of the program that is funded through to June 2018?

Ms Campbell: I do not have the breakdown of those figures, so I would have to take on notice the breakdown of which are in declaration and which are still in the planning phases.

Senator CHISHOLM: I am interested in the funding for those that are in planning as well and the status of them.

Ms Campbell: So of the contracts that are in the planning stages, there is money provided from the Commonwealth through the National Landcare Program for the consultation phase of the IPA. In accordance with the program guidelines that the contracts were established under, when an IPA reaches its declaration stage and is formally declared, there is an expectation that there will be increased funding, and that is a decision of the minister. But there have been a number of IPAs in the recent few years that have proceeded to declaration. Under the guidelines, there is an increase in funding to allow for the increased management responsibility of that area.

Senator CHISHOLM: Minister, is that something you are confident the government will fund as the potentially 18 new ones are agreed to—ongoing funding for those as part of the system?

Senator Birmingham: Well, I am sure appropriate consideration will be given to that. I am happy to take that on notice in terms of any additional information that Mr Frydenberg can provide.

Answer:

- There are now 75 dedicated Indigenous Protected Areas covering 67 million hectares. There are 14 Indigenous Protected Areas in the planning and development stage.
- Ongoing funding for Indigenous Protected Areas is a matter for the Australian Government. Further details are expected to be announced shortly.