

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

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

**Question No:** 50  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Spending on forestry dependent species  
**Hansard Page:** 83  
**Question Date:** 22 May 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Rice asked:**

Senator RICE: In terms of the quantum of funding that has gone towards those actions, how does that compare in the forward estimates with previous years?

Mr Oxley: I am sorry, this really is a matter for outcome 1.1. That is where the spending programs are dealt with.

Mr Knudson: Sorry, Senator. I will get you an update.

Senator RICE: Particularly given that I was told that recovery plans was in 1.4.

CHAIR: If there is any way that we can, without getting officials back, answer Senator Rice's question, that would be helpful.

Mr Knudson: That is what I was trying to lay out for the senator. To get to the essence, now that I understand where she is trying to go, it is to understand the amount of spending on forestry dependent species and articulate what that spending profile looks like. Sorry, Mr Oxley; I interrupted because I talked to the senator previously about waiting for this outcome. I had understood differently where she wanted to focus. If providing that sort of analysis would be helpful, that is where we will focus our effort.

Senator RICE: Yes. Thank you.

**Answer:**

Under Regional Forest Agreements respective State governments are responsible for the day to day management of ongoing forest operations. These management responsibilities include the protection of threatened species. Expenditure on threatened species protection and management by State governments within these areas is unavailable.

The Australian government works with other partners, including State and Territory governments, to invest in threatened species recovery activities. Since 2015, the Australian government has mobilised \$228 million for projects supporting threatened species outcomes. Much of this is directed towards actions identified in recovery plans and conservation advices for listed threatened species, including some species that are dependent for at least part of their life cycle on forest areas.

Examples of forest-dependent species investments include the following projects.

The installation of 500 nest boxes and cutting 100 artificial hollows to increase the number of nesting sites for the critically endangered swift parrot on Bruny Island, Tasmania.

\$226,000 invested in North East Victoria to fund habitat restoration and monitoring of the critically endangered regent honeyeater and a large release of captive bred birds to boost the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park population.

\$1.7 million invested to increase the extent of good quality habitat at Yellingbo Nature Conservation and associated reserves to support recovery of the helmeted honeyeater and Leadbeater's possum.