

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 52
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: National Landcare Program – Funding decrease
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 07 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Is it correct that the funding for the National Landcare Programme (NLP) announced in 2017-18 Budget Paper No. 2 (\$1.0 billion) and in the 2016-17 MYEFO (\$60 m of the \$100 million from the Green Army program to the NLP to be allocated in the years 2018-19 and 2019-20) for the five year period from 2018-19 through 2022-23, i.e. a total of \$1.06 billion over 7 years, represents an approximate 15% decrease in average annual funding compared to the average annual funding of \$1.0 billion for the NLP over the four years from 2014-15 through 2017-18 that was announced in 2014-15 Budget Paper No. 2?

Answer:

In the 2016 Budget the Government confirmed an allocation of \$1.1 billion from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) over seven years from 2016-17 to 2022-23 to fund a new National Landcare Program (NLP).

Overall, this funding represents a reduction compared with the previous four years. In recent years the government has drawn upon Natural Heritage Funds to fund other natural resource management programs within the Environment and Agriculture portfolios, including the Reef Trust and the Supporting Your Local Parks and Environment Program and for budget repair.