

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 67
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: 20 Million Trees program
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 07 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Rice asked:

How is data collected and reported on the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species?

Answer:

The Department uses spatial data as part of the assessment process for 20 Million Trees applications, including data on extent and connectivity.

- Applicants provide maps as part of their applications, which are used to assess the landscape context of the project.
- The Department's National Connectivity Index provides connectivity information to support application assessment.

Data is collected through the Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Improvement Tool (MERIT), the Department's online reporting tool. MERIT collects information on the intent of revegetation activity including whether it is for improving the extent, connectivity and/or condition of native vegetation. Reporting includes data on vegetation at the time of planting (for example exotic grassland/pasture) and landscape connectivity.