

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 84
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Recovery plans
Hansard Page: 82
Question Date: 22 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: So is there any analysis of the resources that are being put in over time into the implementation of recovery plans?

Mr Oxley: Mr Andrews, the Threatened Species Commissioner, I think has on a reasonably regular basis provided updates to the Senate and through public communications about the extent of expenditure which is being made in the service of threatened species recovery objectives. I point back to that information and outcome 1.1.

Senator RICE: What I am getting at is that you have a suite of recovery plans, all of which have a suite of actions in them. I want to know the level of resources that are being put towards the implementation of those suite of actions over time.

Mr Oxley: And I am saying to you that the best source of information for that is Mr Andrews, who has done some of that analysis. It is in program 1.1.

Senator RICE: But does he analyse it according to how much money is actually being spent on recovery plans overall, or is it just the range of different actions that are being undertaken?

Mr Oxley: We will need to take that on notice. I cannot give you that information now.

Answer:

Since 2014, 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.

The following table is a breakdown of the funding for projects supporting threatened species outcomes.

Programme	Number of projects (as August 2017)	Funding (GST ex)
Green Army	708	\$125.2m
20 Million Trees	159	\$42.0m
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	92	\$1.5m
Targeted Threatened Species projects	61	\$12m
Tasmanian Devil Conservation Projects	3	\$3.3m
Turtle and Dugong Protection Plan	4	\$5.0m

Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program	13	\$3.8m
Raine Island Recovery Project	1	\$0.4m
National Environmental Science Programme Threatened Species Recovery Hub	21	\$30m
Threatened Species Recovery Fund	11	\$5m
Total	1073	\$228m

- Projects were identified by the funding applicant as having threatened species outcomes and assessed against the criteria for the respective program round.
- Figures provided for the Green Army include Rounds 1-4 are approximate and are calculated on the average 2015-16 indexed figure of \$176,732 per project and on the average 2016-17 indexed figure of \$178,482 per project for additional Election Commitment projects (66 projects).
- Funding for some projects is provided in conjunction with state and territory governments.
- A total of \$30 million has been committed for the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub. To date, 21 projects have been announced with further projects under consideration.
- A total of \$5 million has been committed for the Threatened Species Recovery Fund. To date, 11 projects have been announced with further projects under consideration.