

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

**Question No:** 18  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division  
**Topic:** National Reserve System  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Singh asked:**

**Senator SINGH:**

Please provide an update on the strategies the Department will pursue, in the absence of any formal funding program for acquisitions and covenants, to ensure that Australia delivers on its commitment for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system?

**Answer:**

More than 17 per cent of Australia's landmass and 36 per cent of waters in our marine jurisdiction are now in reserves and protected areas, making Australia a world leader in terms of meeting the Convention of Biological Diversity Aichi target of 17 per cent of terrestrial land and inland waters and 10 per cent of marine and coastal waters protected by 2020.

Whilst the dedicated property acquisition programme for the creation of protected areas lapsed in the 2013-14 Budget, the Government is continuing to work with its conservation partners to improve ecological representativeness and management approaches to position the National Reserve System as an even more important ecological asset for the future.

As part of this, the National Landcare Programme and other related initiatives, are continuing to support the National Reserve System including through funding for Indigenous Protected Areas and management of World Heritage properties.