

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

Question No: 7
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division
Topic: CHRISTMAS ISLAND CAT ERADICATION PROGRAMME
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Singh asked:

What input did the Department have into the design of the Government's recently announced cat eradication program?

- a. Is the amount of funding Parks Australia will be providing to the cat eradication program new money?
- b. If not, where is it coming from?

Answer:

The cat eradication plan was developed by the Department at the request of the Government and is consistent with proposals for improved management of feral cats on Christmas Island arising from a number of sources including the final report of the Christmas Island Expert Working Group, the draft Christmas Island Biodiversity Conservation Plan and the Christmas Island National Park management plan.

The \$500,000 mobilised by the Threatened Species Commissioner to support feral cat eradication efforts as part of the plan is new to Australia's National Parks system. It has been allocated to the Director of National Parks from the Natural Heritage Trust.