

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

Question No: 2
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: National Reserve System – Aichi Targets
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 21 October 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

1. Recall at budget estimates we had a short discussion about Australia meeting its Aichi targets with regards to the National Reserve System. With that in mind, I want to refer to the QON 63 which states that the Government considers it has "broadly met" Aichi Target 11, with around 17 per cent of terrestrial land protected. If the Government were attempting to accurately and precisely meet the target, what more does it have to do and where is it falling short?

Answer:

The Aichi 11 target is to conserve at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas in an ecologically representative and well-connected system of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2020. Currently, at a national level, over 17 per cent of terrestrial land is included in the National Reserve System (NRS). All 89 Australian bioregions are represented in the NRS, however a number of bioregions are less than 10 per cent protected and therefore are under-represented compared with other regions.

Achieving full ecological representation is challenging, particularly in areas that are highly fragmented or where land is not available. The Government will continue to work with reserve partners, including NGOs, State and Territory governments and private land owners, to improve conservation outcomes in under-represented areas. The Australian Government is investing more than \$2 billion over four years in managing our natural resources through a number of key initiatives including the National Landcare Programme, 20 Million Trees Programme, Green Army Programme and the Land Sector package.