

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

Question No: 104
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.6
Programme: Science Division
Topic: Environmental Information and Research
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator McKim asked:

1. How many projects about threatened species have received conditional approval under the program?
2. Which species did these projects cover? How much money was conditionally approved for the projects?
3. Re the swift parrot project, how many stakeholders were required to give approval before the project could proceed?
4. How many of these stakeholders have given approval? How many have rejected it?
5. What were the reasons for rejection?
6. Will the National Environmental Science Program pursue approval of this project in future?

Answer:

1. The National Environmental Science Programme's (NESP) Threatened Species Recovery Hub submitted their first Research Plan in May this year. Out of this plan, seven projects were fully approved, and six were conditionally approved.
2. The conditionally approved projects cover a number of threatened species and their habitats. In some cases the full list of species that a project covers will be further developed as the project progresses. Some of the key species covered include: swift parrot, forty-spotted pardalote, orange-bellied parrot, long-nosed potoroo, southern brown bandicoot, eastern quoll, eastern bristlebird, Leadbeater's possum, mallee fowl, squirrel glider, superb parrot, red-tailed black cockatoo, and a range of threatened plant species
The total NESP funding for the conditionally approved projects was \$2 231 940.
3. The condition of approval for *Project 2.2 – Tackling threats to endangered hollow nesting birds in Tasmania* -required the hub to provide letters of support from the key management agencies that would be involved in the project.
4. None of the management agencies involved have rejected the project. The Hub is in discussion with the management agencies prior to the agencies providing letters of support.
5. N/A
6. Once the conditions of approval have been met, the Department will confirm approval for work to begin on this project.