

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

Question No: 111
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 3
Programme: Australia Antarctic Division (AAD)
Topic: Protecting Antarctica
Hansard Page: 47
Question Date: 19 October 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: What projects received grants, how many applications were received for the grants and who determined who received the grants?

Dr Gales: It is probably best, senator, if, on notice, I provide you with a list of all of the projects that were funded and that were supported through this last round, if that is acceptable to you?

Answer:

There were 45 grant requests out of 67 applications received for inclusion in the Australian Antarctic Science Program (AASP) 2014-15 round. All applications were peer reviewed and scores were moderated by the Antarctic Research Assessment Committee. Grant requests were extracted and sorted by the Science Planning and Coordination Section according to score, amount requested and logistical requirements. Total funding recommended was determined by the amount available after attributing funding for existing multi-year grants from the 2012-13 round – total funding available per year is \$1,050,000. Twenty-two grants were recommended by the Director of the Australian Antarctic Division to the delegate (Department Deputy Secretary) and grant funding was approved on 29 April 2015.

Projects from the 2014-15 round receiving grants

| Institution | Chief Investigator | Project title |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Griffith University | Dr Susan Nash | When Sinks Become Sources; Understanding Persistent Organic Pollutant Behaviour in Dynamic Polar Environments |
| Macquarie University | Dr Leanne Armand | Interactions of the Totten Glacier with the Southern Ocean through multiple glacial cycles |
| | Professor Robert Harcourt | Seals as Oceanographic Samplers |
| Monash University | Professor Steven Chown | Ecophysiological forecasting for mitigating environmental change in Antarctica |
| | A/Professor Melodie McGeoch | Nowhere to hide? Conservation options for a sub-Antarctic keystone species |
| University of Melbourne | Dr Steven Boger | Searching for Selwyn - does an exotic crustal block underlie northern Victoria Land? |

| Institution | Chief Investigator | Project title |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| University of New England | Professor Brian Sindel | Changes in the ecology and control of introduced non-native plants following pest herbivore eradication in the sub-Antarctic: <i>Stellaria media</i> |
| University of Queensland | Dr Richard Fuller | Conserving Antarctica's biodiversity under multiple stressors |
| | Dr Justine Shaw | Post Eradication Ecosystem Response on Macquarie Island |
| University of Tasmania | Dr Rebecca Carey | The geological evolution of Heard Island, Australian Sub-Antarctic |
| | Professor Mike Coffin | Submarine Volcanism and Hydrothermalism around Heard and McDonald Islands |
| | Dr Jacqueline Halpin | Reconstructing East Antarctica in Gondwana: ground-truthing a new tectonic model |
| | Professor Mark Hindell | Seals from Space: Developing techniques to use satellite remote sensing to census pack-ice seals in the Prydz Bay region of East Antarctica |
| | Professor Mark Hindell (Hawke Fellowship) | Using size-based models to understand the role of mesopelagic fish and squid in Southern Ocean ecosystems |
| | Professor Matthew King | Removing bias from estimates of East Antarctica's contribution to present and past sea-level changes |
| | Dr Delphine Lannuzel | Impact of changes in sea ice extent on primary productivity in the Southern Ocean: links between the iron and carbon cycles in fast ice and the marginal ice zone |
| | Dr Arko Lucieer | Towards a large-scale Antarctic Nearshore and Terrestrial Observing System (ANTOS): Scaling and optimising unmanned airborne observations of moss ecosystems |
| | Professor Andrew McMinn | Response of sea ice algae to multiple co-stressors |
| | Dr Kerrie Swadling | Functional dynamics of zooplankton in Southern Ocean food webs: assessment of drivers and boundaries |
| | Dr Simon Wotherspoon | Predicting contaminant toxicity and risk in polar systems |
| University of Technology, Sydney | Dr Katherina Petrou | Characterising the microbial interactions that drive organic sulphur cycling in Antarctic waters |
| University of Wollongong | Dr Dianne Jolley | Predicting contaminant toxicity and risk in polar systems |
| 9 institutions | 22 grants | |