

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

Question No: 20
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Reef Trust - Reef Trust budget allocation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 21 October 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

1. Has the extra \$100 million that was taken out of the Green Army's for the Reef Trust been allocated yet? If not, why not and when is it expected?

Answer:

The additional \$100 million announced for Reef Trust in the 2015 Budget provides funding for 2015-16 to 2018-19. These funds have been committed to the Reef Trust to support delivery of projects that contribute to achieving the outcomes of the Reef Trust. The offsets for this measure included the Green Army and the Natural Heritage Trust.

The Reef Trust is being developed and implemented in a phased approach, with investments targeted to address known key threats through efficient and effective project design and implementation. This phased approach enables investments to be targeted towards the highest priority threats to the Reef in the context of current and planned investments and ensures the approach taken is fit for purpose and consistent with the relevant legislation, policy requirements and guidelines.

Phase I investments were announced in June 2014 and phase II investments were announced in March 2015. Detailed project scoping documents for phase III investments have been considered by the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel. These phase III investments were developed in close collaboration with Independent Expert Panel members, key scientists, stakeholders and the Queensland Government. These investments are subject to approval by the Minister for the Environment and are scheduled to be announced by the end of the 2015 calendar year. Phase IV projects are scheduled for development and announcement by mid 2016.