

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

**Question No:** 23  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1.1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** National Landcare Programs focus on local and on-ground actions  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 21 October 2015  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

1. How have these programs implemented a focus on local, on-ground actions?

**Answer:**

The \$1 billion National Landcare Programme is based on the principles of simple, local and long-term and supports communities to take practical action to protect and manage Australia's important environmental assets and productive landscapes.

Funding has been provided to the 56 regional NRM organisations to deliver the regional stream of the National Landcare Programme. The NRM organisations are required to invest a minimum of 20 percent of their funding to community investment. The regional NRM organisations have indicated that they will provide more than \$120 million in community NRM activities over four years to 2017-18, including through small grants for on-ground projects that are delivered by, or directly engage with, the local landcare community.

Another priority initiative funded under the National Landcare Programme is the 20 Million Trees programme, which will deliver environmental benefits, such as habitat for threatened species, at the local level and will improve the liveability of our cities and towns by creating green spaces.

Fifty-five projects, worth \$4.374 million are being funded through the Programme's first competitive grant round. With the support of these grants, Landcare and community groups, individuals and organisations will plant approximately 1.11 million native trees, as well as associated understorey, in a range of urban and regional projects across Australia.

In addition, the Government has provided \$1 million in 2014-15 and 2015-16 to help state, territory and national Landcare networks build their capacity to support and represent grass roots local Landcare communities and support local Landcare involvement in the National Landcare Programme, Green Army, and 20 Million Trees Programmes.

The 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants Programme 2014-15 was a one-off \$5 million grant round under the national stream of the National Landcare Programme, which will see a total of 291 projects undertaken to conserve and protect local environments and manage the natural resource base, contributing to outcomes in the national interest.