

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

**Question No:** 79  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1.1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Wet Tropics Management Authority - Threat Abatement Plan funding  
**Hansard Page:** 98  
**Question Date:** 19 October 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters asked:**

**Senator WATERS:** Has any money been spent in connection with the threat abatement plan or, indeed, the threat abatement advice since 2013?

**Mr Murphy:** I think there might have been some separate money—this is for WTMA—that was granted in respect of the property, but if we could take that on notice and we will answer it along with the other funding question.

**Senator WATERS:** Thank you.

**Answer:**

Since December 2013, the following Australian Government funding has been allocated to contribute to actions identified in the *Threat Abatement Plan to reduce the impacts of tramp ants on biodiversity in Australia and its territories*:

- The Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) is contracted to receive \$1,997,870 (GST exclusive) to eradicate a large infestation of yellow crazy ants over 400 hectares within and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The agreement commenced 9 December 2013 and will expire 30 June 2018. WTMA has received \$1.4 million up to 7 October 2015.
- Under rounds two and three of the Green Army Programme, WTMA was successful in securing six Green Army teams. The teams will work to protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area by surveying and controlling yellow crazy ants in adjoining residential areas.
- An additional four Green Army projects will assist these six teams resulting in 10 Green Army teams working to combat yellow crazy ants in and around the Wet Tropics region. Of these 10 projects, four have commenced and are scheduled for completion between February and March 2016. It is anticipated the remaining six projects will commence around June 2016.
- Between December 2013 and May 2015 a total of \$1.136m (GST exclusive) was spent on a yellow crazy ant control program in the Christmas Island National Park.
- Australian Government funding for yellow crazy ant management has also included \$268,000 (GST exclusive) for the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management for the management of yellow crazy ants along the boundary of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area between 27 September 2012 and 30 June 2013.

- Between March 2014 and January 2015 a total of \$33,298 (GST exclusive) was spent on reviewing and developing a plan for tropical fire ant eradication for islands within the Ashmore Reef Commonwealth marine reserve.