

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 02  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Reef Trust Funding Allocation  
**Hansard Page:** 29  
**Question Date:** 17 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Chisholm, Anthony asked:**

Senator CHISHOLM: Have you got a figure on how many farmers have received a grant to provide assistance to improve water quality or change practices?

Ms Parry: I can take that question on notice so we can get specifics by phase and how many farmers have participated in our programs. So I am very clear with you in terms of how Reef Trust funding is allocated we would provide funding to a service provider, and then the service provider would be the face, if you will, of the contact with the farmer. But we do collect that data about how many farmers are interacting with and participating in our programs by phase and by particular allocation.

Senator CHISHOLM: Once you have made allocations, how do you go back and assess the effectiveness of the allocation that was made and the impact it had?

Ms Parry: We use a variety of different mechanisms to assess the performance of our programs. One, we look at take-up rates. Two, we look at cost effectiveness and measurement of our intervention. Again I will use the incidence of the reverse tenders primarily in the wet tropics. We have a variety of different monitoring and modelling programs primarily done through our Paddock to Reef, which is our main program run in conjunction with the Queensland government. For instance, early data that has been captured through that program has indicated that there has been 86 tonnes of nitrogen through the phase 1 reverse tender in the wet tropics. That is 86 fewer tonnes of nitrogen applied through the farmers participating in the reverse auction.

Senator CHISHOLM: It would be good to get some more information about those grants if possible as well.

Ms Parry: In terms of the grants, you are looking for numbers of participants and the type of grants?

Senator CHISHOLM: Yes—and the number who applied as well.

Ms Parry: Okay, we will take that on notice. Thank you.

**Answer:** (see over)

**Reef Trust and Reef Program investments targeting farmers and landholders.**

Project	Objectives	Applications	Successful	Unsuccessful	# of farmers/ landholders engaged
<b>Reef Trust Phase 1</b>					
Reverse tender - cane (competitive grants process)	Long-term reduction in nitrogen discharge from the Wet Tropics sugar cane industry leading to improvement in Reef water quality	21	15 (1 withdrawal so only 14 contracts executed)	6	14
Grazing (non competitive)	Promotion of grazing best management practice				20 graziers (total for project)
<b>Reef Trust Phase 2</b>					
Reverse tenders – cane (competitive grants process)	Long-term reduction in nitrogen discharge from the Burdekin sugar cane industry leading to improvement in Reef water quality	21	17 (1 withdrawal so only 16 contracts executed)	4	16
Gully erosion control (competitive grants process)	Long-term reduction in sediment run-off from high risk Gully Erosion areas in the Reef catchments, to improve water quality	8	6	2	At least 31 to be directly engaged in piloting gully erosion control techniques with each of these projects having a significant outreach component.
<b>Reef Trust Phase 3</b>					
Water Quality package (competitive grants process)	To address the key threats of nutrient, pesticide and sediment loss through targeted investment to facilitate agricultural industry best management practice adoption and innovation to provide cost effective water quality improvements	6*	4	2	Delivery partners to engage landholders – this is planned to commence later this year. These projects aim to reach more than 2,000 farmers and graziers managing nearly 3 million hectares
<b>Reef Program</b>					
Water Quality Grants		12	7	5	As at June 2015 approximately 1345 farmers/landholders have been engaged under Reef Program (grazing and farming)
Water Quality Partnerships		9	6	2 (1 withdrawal)	
Systems Repair on-ground		31	14	17	

\*eligible applications for delivery partners to run a competitive grants and extension process