Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

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

Question No: 04

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 1

Program: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)

Topic: Threatened Species Funding

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Question Date: 17 October 2016

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Moore, Claire asked:

Senator MOORE: I have a series of questions around these issues. Can the department outline how it is calculated that \$208-plus million has been spent on threatened species recovery?

Mr Andrews: Yes, I can answer that question for you. That is a compilation of all of the money since 2014—the year that I was appointed as Australia's first Threatened Species

Commissioner—

. . .

Mr Andrews: ...An additional \$900,000 of projects were announced by Minister Frydenberg on Threatened Species Day, 7 September—eight or nine projects which I can give you details of, if you want. These are community driven, grassroots projects to support threatened species across Australia. In addition to that, there are some marine species initiatives involving the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection program, the Raine Island Recovery project and the Turtle and Dugong Protection plan—\$3.791877 million, \$400,000 and \$5 million respectively. The last substantive amount is from the Green Army program, from rounds 1 to 4: \$113.462251 million. The table now adds up to \$210,899,134.

Senator MOORE: Any cents?

Mr Andrews: No.

Senator MOORE: You can give that to me in a table?

Mr Andrews: We can give you that table. We update it and publish it regularly.

Answer:

 Please refer to below table for summary table of projects addressing threatened species outcomes.

Funding mobilised since 2014

Programme	Number of projects (as at 13 October 2016)	Funding (GST ex)
Green Army	642	\$113.5m
20 Million Trees	159	\$42.0m
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	92	\$1.5m
Targeted Threatened Species projects	45	\$10.4m
Tasmanian Devil Conservation Projects	3	\$3.3m
Turtle and Dugong Protection Plan	4	\$5.0m
Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program	13	\$3.8m
Raine Island Recovery Project	1	\$0.4m
National Environmental Science Programme Threatened Species Recovery Hub	21	\$30m
Threatened Species Recovery Fund*	9	\$5m
Total	989	\$215m

- Projects were identified by the funding applicant as having threatened species outcomes and assessed against the criteria for the respective program round.
- Figures provided for the Green Army are approximate and are calculated on the average 2015-16 indexed figure of \$176,732 per project.
- Funding for some projects is provided in conjunction with state & territory governments.
- A total of \$30 million has been committed for the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub. To date, 21 projects have been announced with further projects under consideration.

^{*} A total of \$5 million has been committed for the TSRF. To date, 9 projects have been announced to the value of \$900,000.