

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 47
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Flood Remediation
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 01 November 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

In the past, Green Army and NRM projects have been diverted to assist with disaster repair and remediation in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. In the recent estimates hearing, we discussed this issue, but I would like some clarification:

After the mid-year floods in Tasmania, the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull visited the state and specifically promised federal support for Tasmanian farmers affected by the floods. Could you advise whether the Prime Minister or his office requested that the Department provide extra resources or support to Tasmanian farmers or that existing projects be diverted toward flood remediation and repair activities? Could you advise whether the Minister requested that the Department provide extra resources or support to Tasmanian farmers or that existing projects be diverted toward flood remediation and repair activities? If yes, can you outline the details of the request(s) that were made and how the department accommodated them?

Answer:

The Prime Minister or his office, and the Minister for the Environment and Energy, have not requested that the Department provide extra resources or support to Tasmanian farmers or divert an existing project towards flood remediation and repair activities.

The Australian Government provides support to states through the jointly-funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. In recognition of the impact of the Tasmanian floods in June 2016, a range of relief and recovery assistance measures have been made available to the disaster affected communities in Tasmania. These measures include the Primary Producer Clean-Up Grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible primary producers to undertake clean-up and restoration activities including removing debris, disposing of dead livestock, salvaging crops, grain and feed, and repairing plant and equipment.

The Tasmanian Premier, Mr Will Hodgman MP, has requested exceptional circumstances funding assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The Australian Government Attorney-General's Department is preparing advice to support the Prime Minister's consideration of this request.