

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 80

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division

Topic: Wild Dog management program

Proof Hansard page: 125

Senator BACK asked:

Senator BACK: Could you, on notice, give us a breakdown state-by-state as to where the federal funding in the wild dog management program is being expended and also provide us with some figures or some statistics that indicate what the success or otherwise of this reduction program is.

Mr Koval: Certainly, we can provide that on notice.

Answer:

- Australian Government investment in wild dog management is via a number of programmes, outlined below, including the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper and the National Landcare Programme.
- Figures or statistics are not yet available on the success of this funding, however a number of mechanisms are expected to provide data on the success of the wild dog initiatives in the future.

National Landcare Programme

Project	Jurisdiction	Funding	Description
National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP)	National	\$1.60 million	Funding over 3 years (to 2016-17) has been provided to the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IA CRC) to assist with implementing the NWDAP. This includes providing national leadership and coordination, assisting farmers adopt practices through provision of information and extension activities, and training doggers.

National Wild Dog Alert System	National	\$ 1.03 million	Funding over 3 years (to 2017-18) has been provided to the IA CRC to develop and test the Wild Dog Alert system, an early warning system that has the potential to enable farmers to pre-empt wild dog attacks, rather than responding after attacks have occurred. The funding will assist with developing and testing each component of the alert system in the field.
Wild dog management in Western Australia	Western Australia	\$1.13 million	Funding was allocated in 2015-16 to the WA government, from the WA Single Holding Account for Natural Resource Management, to assist in wild dog management in Western Australia. Of this, \$100,000 has been annexed for the NWDAP.

Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper - Established pest animals and weeds - \$50 million initiative (2015-16 to 2018-19)

New or Improved control tools and technologies for established pest animals and weeds management: (\$22.7 million through Targeted and Competitive Grants process).

Project	Jurisdiction	Funding	Description
Targeted grants that include wild dog related activities			
Para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) based lethal trap device	National	\$158,000	Funding has been provided to the IA CRC to improve the use of lethal trap devices for wild dog control by completing field trials using the new poison, PAPP.
Blue Healer—glovebox antidote	National	\$247,000	Funding has been provided to the IA CRC to develop a tool that farmers could use to administer methylene blue to working or pet dogs accidentally poisoned by PAPP.

National Partnership Agreement \$22.5 million worth of projects that build the skills and capacity of landholders, the community and industry in managing established pest animals and weeds delivered by state and territory governments from 2015-16 to 2018-19. The below projects include wild dog related activities.

Question: 80 (continued)

Project	Jurisdiction	Funding	Description
Building landholder capability in pest animal management	New South Wales	\$1,357,000	This project will target multiple species including wild dogs. This project will deliver enhanced activities including: toolkits for landholders on management techniques, pest animal mapping, best practice online training videos and additional Vertebrate Pest Training modules.
Training in best practice pest management	Queensland	\$1,309,000	This project will target multiple species including wild dogs. This project will build increased landholder skills and knowledge in the safe handling, storage and transport of chemicals and toxins for pest animal management, as well as understanding of the latest toxins, baits and bait deployment devices. Best practice training will be delivered across eight industry sectors.
Improving landholders' predator management skills	South Australia	\$335,200	This project will target multiple species including wild dogs. This project will improve and update the knowledge base of landholders and pest animal controllers in current best practice wild dog, fox and feral cat management across South Australia, through the provision of training and awareness sessions and demonstration sites.
Best practice management of wild dogs in the Northern Territory	Northern Territory	\$323,500	This project will deliver best practice guidelines for assessing and managing the impacts of wild dogs across the Northern Territory, including working with landholders to collect supporting evidence.

The Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper – Pest animal and weed control for drought affected areas - \$25.8 million (2015-16 to 2018-19)

A large proportion of the 2015-16 (\$15 million) funding is being directed towards wild dog management activities, with the states likely to direct a large proportion of the funding committed for 2016-17 (\$4 million) into similar activities. Funds for 2017-18 (\$4 million) and 2018-19 (\$2 million) have yet to be allocated.

Question: 80 (continued)

State-based projects and activities recently commenced using the 2015-16 funding that the states have received. For this reason, figures and statistics that indicate the success of the projects are not yet available.

Project	Jurisdiction	2015-16 funding received	2016-17 funding committed	Description
Queensland Feral Pest Initiative	Queensland	\$10 m	\$2m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cluster exclusion fencing • programmes to control wild dog, pigs, rabbits, deer • prickly acacia control program
2015-16 Pest and Weed in Drought Program	New South Wales	\$3m	\$0.5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cluster exclusion fencing • total grazing pressure fencing • water-point traps • strategic projects • emerging issues projects
Aiding drought recovery in South Australia through strengthened regional pest control	South Australia	\$1m	\$0.5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade to 60km of the Dog Fence, Lake Frome section. • large feral herbivore aerial control • strategic woody weed & cacti control • wild dog on-property control devices • control programs for three priority weeds • rabbit and fox control programs
i) Gascoyne prickly bush project ii) Strategic development of exclusion fencing for control of wild dogs	Western Australia	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gascoyne prickly bush 'virtual fence' • wild dog control exclusion fencing

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 81

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Policy and Implementation

Topic: Contract ID CN3383748

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator BILYK asked:

With reference to Contract Notice ID CN3383748 published on the Austender website (“Project administration or planning”):

- a) Precisely what goods or services were procured under this contract?
- b) Can the Minister please explain precisely what is involved in assisting with “co-design workshops and producing ‘blueprints’ on future state of stage 2 biosecurity legislation projects”?
- c) Can copies of any training materials, presentations, or handouts etc used relating to the services procured under this contract please be provided?
- d) Who approved this expenditure?
- e) Was the Minister for Agriculture or his office briefed in relation to the goods or services procured under this contract? If so, on what date(s)?

Answer:

- a) The goods and services procured under this contract will support planning for a group of legislation implementation related projects, to be delivered by different parts of the department, over the next two years. Collectively, the projects will change some of the services the department delivers to a wide range of clients and stakeholders.

The department will use this upfront planning to:

- Ensure that the projects as a group (or the programme) are well planned and able to be implemented successfully to deliver the intended benefits to the Australian community at the end of the programme (June 18).
- Identify where the changes from the various projects, when grouped together, will affect services or clients so that the department can ensure efficient and cost effective programme delivery in a way that minimises or manages the collective impact on the department’s clients and staff.

Question: 81 (continued)

- b) The approach includes direct consultation to distil the views of internal and external stakeholders. The end product is programme documentation (blueprints) clearly identifying the programme of work, its impact on internal and external stakeholders and implications for the department's operations.
- c) The workshops and interviews will be from mid-November to mid-December 2016. Products will be available once completed.
- d) Assistant Secretary Lee Cale, Biosecurity Implementation Branch, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
- e) No