

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

**Question No:** 3  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division  
**Topic:** NHT Funds  
**Hansard Page:** 108  
**Question Date:** 24 February 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Siewert asked:**

Senator SIEWERT: I specifically want to know: is this money coming out of the NHT fund? And I am sure Mr Thompson and Mr Sullivan know why I am asking that question.

Senator Cormann: I think that question was actually answered.

Senator SIEWERT: Okay. Was the NHT ministerial board consulted over that decision?

Mr Sullivan: I would have to check the records in terms of the meetings of the ministerial board that have taken place since the election. I am happy to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The redirection of funds from an appropriation to the Natural Heritage Trust to another purpose is not a decision for the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board but a matter for government. The Board only makes decisions on funding within the Natural Heritage Trust. It is a matter for government to determine the level of appropriation to the Trust.