

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: NRM 01

Division/Agency: Natural Resource Management

Topic: Environmental Works and Measures Program

Hansard Page: 78 (25/05/06)

Senator McEwen asked:

Can you tell me what funding has been set aside for environmental works and measures prior to this latest injection of money?

Answer:

The Environmental Works and Measures Program was a \$150 million dollar programme originally over a seven year period then extended to eight years with a completion date of 2010/11.

Prior to the Australian Government's injection of \$500 million to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission the funding set aside for the Environmental Works and Measures Program for 2006-07 had not been finalised. It is likely that 2006/07 funding would have been approximately \$11 million.

Question: NRM 02

Division/Agency: Natural Resource Management

Topic: Regional investment

Hansard Page: 82 (25/05/06)

Senator McEwen asked:

Each of the evaluations deals with the area of sustainable agricultural outcomes from the regional investment?

Mr Aldred—Or biodiversity outcomes, salinity outcomes and so on. I can provide a list of the 10 if you do not have it.

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Answer:

The following evaluations of the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality have been completed and can be found at

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/monitoring/national-evaluations/index.html>:

1. Significant invasive species (weeds) outcomes of regional investment;
2. Biodiversity outcomes of regional investment;
3. Salinity outcomes of regional investment;
4. Sustainable agriculture outcomes of regional investment;
5. Current governance arrangements to support regional investment;
6. The effectiveness of bilateral agreements between the Australian Government and state/territory governments for the regional component of the extension of the Natural Heritage Trust;
7. The Australian Government Envirofund; and
8. The National Investment Stream of the Natural Heritage Trust

The evaluations of coastal, estuarine and marine outcomes and the NRM facilitators' network are expected to be completed in July 2006.