

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION DIVISION – **SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEF**

SENATE ESTIMATES, February 2017

Threatened Species Strategy and Threatened Species Commissioner

Budget

- Since the appointment of the Threatened Species Commissioner in 2014, more than \$211 million has been mobilised for 997 projects with threatened species outcomes (**see Attachment A**). The majority of these projects will contribute to improving habitat condition to support threatened species by 2020.
- Achieving the targets in the Threatened Species Strategy relies on mobilising resources through existing Australian Government programs, state and territory governments, the private sector and through community engagement. **Attachment B** has a table of species targeted in the Strategy, and projects contributing to their recovery.
- The Threatened Species Commissioner is supported by a small team within the Department. He also has four informal advisers who provide expert guidance and advice.

Threatened Species Strategy first year report

- The Threatened Species Strategy first year report is on the Department's website (**Attachment C**).
- The report highlights progress in delivering the Threatened Species Strategy.
- Of the 26 targets to be met in the first year of the Threatened Species Strategy, 21 were successfully delivered, with seven targets over achieved.
- The four partially achieved targets will be completed in the coming months. The one incomplete target refers to uptake of the FeralCatScan app. It was designed to maximise uptake of the app and mobilise community support.

Threatened Species Recovery Fund

- On 5 June 2016, a \$5 million Threatened Species Recovery Fund was announced to invest in community grants for local projects that closely align with the targets of the Threatened Species Strategy.
- This included the first nine projects to be funded.
- The Fund also includes a competitive round where applicants from across Australia can apply for funding to protect threatened species.

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Feral Cat Taskforce

- The Feral Cat Taskforce held its third meeting from the 1-2 September 2016, bringing together representatives from state's and territories, the science community and key NGO's.
- The Taskforce was established to build collaborative approaches and drive national momentum for feral cat control, including delivering on the Meeting of Environment Ministers commitment in 2015 to work towards listing feral cats as a pest in each jurisdiction, reporting progress against the targets in the Threatened Species Strategy, and sharing innovative management options for feral cats.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March this year.

Threatened Species Prospectus

- The Threatened Species Prospectus is an innovative financing tool aimed at mobilising the business sector to co-invest in conservation programmes and deliver biodiversity outcomes.
- The Prospectus includes more than 40 projects developed in consultation with the community, including from zoos, state and territory governments, non-government organisations and committed community groups.
- The Prospectus represents an opportunity to significantly increase investment in conservation. Projects included in the prospectus support the targets in the Threatened Species Strategy.

Key Dates / Processes

Decision/Announcement	Date
Threatened Species Commissioner appointed	2 July 2014
\$2 million secured by the Threatened Species Commissioner for threatened species in Commonwealth National Parks	17 November 2014
\$722,000 in funding for 11 threatened species projects	12 February 2015
Threatened Species Summit held	16 July 2015
Threatened Species Strategy launched with \$6.6 million to support the implementation	16 July 2015
Threatened Species Recovery Fund announced, committing \$5 million to community projects	5 June 2016
First year report released	December 2016

Recent Media (Attachment D)

- Big business recruited to fight extinction of endangered animals
Highlights the opportunity for big business to co-invest in programs in the fight against extinction.
- Feral Cats now cover 99.8% of Australia
Outlines feral cat population and density across Australia and highlights the destructive nature of the feral pest animal.
- Further detail on above media at **Attachment C**

Project examples

Feral cat detector dog protecting mountain pygmy-possums

- **\$140 000** provided for **detector dogs protecting the mountain pygmy-possum and konoom**. Dog and handlers are on the ground and helping to improve trapping practices. Since the dogs have been working, they have **caught and euthanized 56cats and 37 foxes**. Seeing **more juvenile mountain pygmy-possums and more bandicoots**.

Norfolk Island rodent control expansion to protect green parrots

- Green Parrot numbers continue upward trend with the population now estimated to be around **350-400, an increase from 50-100 in 2013**. 77 chicks (including 35 females) were successfully fledged in 2016. **Mobilised \$300 000** to expand rodent control in and outside of Norfolk Island National Park

Christmas Island feral cat eradication

- **16 000 Eradicat® baits deployed** through the forest during the dry season between June and October 2015. Concurrent with forest baiting, the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife **baited all roads and tracks on the island**. Parks and Wildlife also trapped stray cats around the township, and undertook the annual domestic cat survey. **Provided \$500 000 in funding** through Parks Australia to carry out the eradication in partnership with the community, the local council and mining company on the island.

Western quolls in the Flinders Ranges

- **115 feral cats removed** since Jan 2014. As many as **250 translocated western quolls** now thriving. Government **provided \$55 000 to support euthanising feral cats**. The final release and the successful completion of the translocation of western quolls into the Flinders Ranges will occur on 6 May 2016.

WA Emergency Baiting

- **Nearly 150 000 hectares of emergency feral cat baiting completed in Western Australia** to protect the Gilbert's potoroo in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve (3 000 hectares) and western ground parrot in Cape Arid National Park (145 000 hectares). Both species listed as priorities in the Threatened Species Strategy. **Ground trapping also removed 7 cats** from critical western ground parrot habitat.

Central rock-rat baiting

- Emergency feral cat baiting (Eradict) was undertaken in August 2016 in the central rock-rat's core habitat to help avoid extinction, supported by a \$220 000 investment through the National Landcare Programme. This will also support plans to transfer some of the rock rats to Newhaven Sanctuary when numbers have sufficiently recovered.

Western Ground parrot - workshop

- A workshop for the critically endangered western ground parrot took place on 30 March 2016. This was in response to recent extensive bushfires which destroyed around 90% of known occupied habitat, increasing the risk of extinction. The workshop identified and prioritised emergency interventions for the species by bringing together experts to provide advice for emergency actions. The Australian Government contributed \$5 000 towards the workshop.

Eastern barred bandicoot

- Community support for the eastern barred bandicoot is high, being the most cited targeted mammal for Green Army projects - with 26 teams contributing towards its recovery. This is on top of over \$695 000 in projects supported through the 20 Million Trees and National Landcare Programmes.

Silver Daisy Bush

- On ground action is well underway for the silver daisy bush, with a project worth \$433 440 funded through the second tranche of the 20 Million Trees Programme's large-scale component, two projects under Round 2 of the Programs to the value of \$200 000, and three Green Army teams undertaking recovery actions for the species.

Fitzgerald's mulla mulla

- One project funded through the second tranche of the 20 Million Trees Programme's large-scale component worth over \$1 million is undertaking recovery actions for the Fitzgerald mulla mulla.

Bilby Festival

- \$40 000 contributed to the Bilby Festival to share knowledge on Indigenous land management and highlight the significance of Indigenous lands for the conservation of the Bilby (80% of bilbies on Indigenous lands).

FUNDING MOBILISED**ATTACHMENT A**

Programme	Number of projects	Funding mobilised
20 Million Trees		
Grant Round 1: 2014-15	50	\$3,940,936
West Melbourne	1	\$5,000,000
Cumberland Corridors Grants Round	13	\$4,565,441
National Service Provider - Tranche 1	22	\$16,320,513
National Service Provider - Tranche 2	10	\$7,286,382
Grant Round 2: 2015-16	63	\$4,903,078
National Landcare Programme		
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	92	\$1,594,500
Tasmanian Devil Conservation Projects	3	\$3,300,000
National Environmental Science Programme		
Threatened Species Recovery Hub	21	\$30,000,000
Threatened Species Commissioner Projects		
Commonwealth National Parks	10	\$2,000,000
First round of TS Commissioner projects	11	\$722,000
Threatened Species Summit Projects	20	\$6,667,151
National Bilby Festival and Western Ground Parrot Workshop	2	\$45,000
Kangaroo Island and Bruny Island cat eradication	2	\$1,000,000
Threatened Species Recovery Fund*	9	\$900,000
Threatened Species Strategy Implementation Projects	8	\$475,885
Marine threatened species initiatives		
Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program	13	\$3,791,877
Raine Island Recovery Project	1	\$400,000
Turtle and Dugong Protection Plan	4	\$5,000,000
Green Army Programme		
Rounds 1-4	642	\$113,462,256
Grand Total	997	\$211,375,018

- Amounts listed are the amounts that have been approved and announced.
- Projects were identified by the funding applicant as having threatened species outcomes and assessed against the criteria for the respective programme round.
- Funding is for a broad range of activities, including threatened species conservation activities.
- 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.

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*These projects are election commitments announced by the Minister. Additional projects will be approved under the Threatened Species Recovery Fund to the value of \$5 million

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

TARGETED SPECIES IN THE STRATEGY AND PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE RECOVERY OF EACH SPECIES

ATTACHMENT BProject funding**20 Birds by 2020**

Targeted species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Norfolk Island green parrot	- \$300 000 on rodent control	R4 – 1 project			Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation	Ongoing parks work		
Mallee emu-wren	- \$100 000 pre-translocation studies for the Endangered mallee emu-wren	R4 – 3 projects	2 projects - Victoria (establishing endangered woodlands) - SA (Murray Mallee) – restoring habitat for 4 EPBC listed birds	- Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM regional funding	Project 1.3 – Managing fire regimes with thresholds to save threatened flora and fauna			
Plains wanderer	- \$100 000 Emergency conservation for the plains wanderer (captive population) Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$20 000 for the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park to plant shrubs and conduct surveys	R4 – 2 projects		10 projects			NSW OEH, Victoria threatened species programs	Zoos Vic, Taronga Zoo
Alligator Rivers yellow chat	- \$450 000 Management of fire, weeds and feral animals in priority areas at Kakadu National Park	R4 – 2 projects			Sub-project: 1.1.1. Adaptive management of fire and feral animals to improve conservation of threatened species in Kakadu			
Night parrot	\$100 000 feral cat grooming trap technology				Project 5.2 Better offsets for threatened species		Qld Government \$400 000	Bush heritage – TSC advocacy

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Targeted species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Helmeted honeyeater	Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$50 000 for revegetation at Yellingbo		2x 20 million trees projects	6 projects				Ongoing captive breeding program at ZoosVIC, Birdlife Australia
Norfolk Island boobook owl	\$300 000 on rodent control	R4 – 1 project			Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation	ongoing parks work		
Hooded plover	\$40 000 in NSW \$45 000 in VIC/SA	R4 – 19 projects		9 projects including the Birdlife Australia Great Ocean Road flagship project – protecting the hooded plover	Project 6.3 Identifying better methods for community buy in			
Eastern bristlebird		R4 – 5 projects		3 projects – Including East Gippsland fox control project	Project 3.2 Action evaluation and on-ground monitoring of threatened species	Ongoing management by Parks Australia in Booderee		
Regent honeyeater		R1-3 -4 projects R4 – 52 projects	R2 – 5 projects	13 NLP projects focussed on habitat restoration in woodlands	Project 5.2 Better offsets for threatened species		\$1 million investment from NSW Conservation Trust	Ongoing Birdlife Australia projects
Orange-bellied parrot	\$525 000 emergency response in partnership with Tas Government	R4 – 9 projects	R2 – 1 project	9 projects focussed on habitat restoration	Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation Project 2.2 \$180 000 towards managing sugar gliders		\$525 000 emergency response in partnership with Tas Government	Ongoing support from recovery team and Wildcare volunteer group
Western ground parrot	1.7 million on baiting program that will also help WGP \$40 000 for cameras at Perth Zoo \$5 000 for workshop	R4 – 2 projects			Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation			Friends of group donations, South Coast NRM, Perth Zoo.
Swift parrot		R4 – 53 projects - Wyong Shire Council (Tuggerah Lakes rehabilitation of riparian habitats)	4 projects R2 – 10 projects	4 projects	- NESP project 2.2 \$180 000 towards managing sugar gliders			

Targeted species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (south-eastern)		R4 – 2 projects - Victoria Trust for Nature (Protecting RTBC habitat in the Wimmera)	- 3 projects including Zoos SA (Cookies planting for cookies)	3 projects including Wimmera CMA (Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery)	- NESP project 1.2 Conserving critical habitat – quantifying effectiveness of recovery actions - NESP project 3.2 Action evaluation and on ground reporting of threatened species			Birdlife Australia (Red-tailed Black Cockatoo recovery program) – partnering with SA and Vic gov, Zoos Vic, UQ, community
White-throated grasswren						- Kakadu Threatened Species Strategy 2014-2024 monitoring - Fire management is undertaken by the Warddeken's indigenous rangers		
Australasian Bittern	Recent environmental water flows, including water supplied by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, are resulting in a small population boom for bitterns nesting in the Barmah-Millewa forest.	R4 – 41 projects	R2 – 3 projects - SE NSW (Connecting and expanding habitat on crown lands in SE NSW)	6 projects				
Golden-shouldered parrot		R4 – 6 projects						The Olkola Aboriginal Corporation, Bush Heritage and landholders are working together with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to implement actions from the recovery plan.
Eastern curlew	Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$20 000 to restore saltmarsh habitat at flyway sites	R4 – 18 projects	R2 – 1 project 1 project – Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor	2 projects – Protecting the ecological values of the Western Port Ramsar site.	Project 6.3 Identifying better methods for community buy in			The Australia Government plays an important role in building international cooperation to conserve migratory birds and is a member of the East-Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership.

Targeted species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Malleefowl	TOTAL – over \$4.6 million plus NESP funding	12 Green Army Projects in WA, SA and VIC working to increase connectivity in mallee habitat Over \$2 million	7 20 million projects connecting mallee habitat – Over \$2.6 million	4 NLP projects focussing on rabbit control, weeding and revegetation \$80 000	Project 3.3, \$11.1 million Adaptive management of malleefowl		NSW targeted species	
Cassowary	The Australian Government has secured over \$10 million in initiatives supporting the southern cassowary Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$150 000 for the northern population of the cassowary (Cape York and Daintree)	R1-3 - 17 projects R4 – 4 projects	R2 – 3 projects	12 projects focussed on connecting habitat				

20 Mammals by 2020

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Black-footed rock-wallaby	\$220 000 for West MacDonnell Ranges cat control \$100 000 Grooming Trap \$320 000 restoring Central Australian water places \$1.7 million Western Shield \$2.3 million total	R4 – 3 teams		\$20 000 Kimberly Nyikina-Mangla Rangers Protecting BF-RW	2 Projects worth \$2.8 million		WA baiting at Kalbarri NP	Indigenous ranger work - Warmu enclosure
Brush-tailed rabbit-rat	\$235 000 Groote Eylandt \$50 000 Kakadu fire and weed management (reintroductions planned) \$285 000 total	R4 – 2 teams						Tiwi Islanders and Hugh Davies visited Canberra
Central rock-rat	\$220 000 for West MacDonnell Ranges feral cat control \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$970 000 total				1 Project worth \$467 875		Partnership with NT gov for baiting	
Christmas Island flying-fox	\$500 000 CI cat eradication \$500 000 total	R4 – 1 team			2 projects worth \$1.7 million	Cat eradication Christmas Island		PhD students
Eastern barred bandicoot	\$120 000 for guardian dogs \$55 000 for gene widening Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$90 000 to support feral cat trapping and community engagement \$600 000 Mulligan's Flat	R4 – 16 teams	R1 – 2 project R2 – 5 Projects		3 projects worth \$4.4 million		VIC gov and Zoos Vic co-funding	
Eastern bettong	\$600 000 Mulligan's Flat \$600 000 total		R2 – 1 Project		2 projects worth \$2.8 million		\$900 000 from ACT government - offset	Private donations campaign
Eastern quoll	\$600 000 Mulligan's Flat \$500 000 to kick-start feral cat eradication efforts on Bruny Island Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$90 000 to support feral cat trapping and community engagement \$1.19 million total				1 project worth \$1.2 million			Mt Rothwell and Mulligan's partnership Rewilding Australia interest

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Gilbert's potoroo	\$1.7 million Western Shield Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250,000 to the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group to create one new secure population \$1.95 million total \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary	R4 – 1 team			1 project worth \$128 000		Emergency WA baiting	
Golden bandicoot	Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250 000 to Martu Traditional Owners to remove feral cats and assist in reintroductions \$1 million total							
Greater bilby	\$1.2 million feral free area in Queensland \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$100 000 grooming traps \$1.7 million western shield \$36 363 for bilby festival \$3.78 million total \$92 000 for goat eradication	R4 – 20 teams			5 projects worth \$5.1 million Includes work at Martu to protect bilbies from cats			
Kangaroo Island dunnart	\$500 000 to kick-start feral cat eradications on Kangaroo Island \$592 000 total	R4 – 2 teams			1 project worth \$411 310		KI cat eradication efforts	
Leadbeater's possum	Leadbeater's Possum Action Plan \$592 000 total		\$100 000 Restoring the Coranderrk Bushland for Victoria's faunal emblems \$1 697 272 Yellingbo and surrounding reserves habitat for endangered faunal species \$99 056 Yellingbo – Habitat restoration for the helmeted honeyeater and leadbeater's possum		2 projects worth \$2.3 million Includes Action Plan projects		VIC Industry Taskforce	

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Mahogany Glider	\$30 000 Habitat connectivity project Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$50,000 to help landholders and community groups improve habitat \$80 000 total	R2 – 1 team R4 – 1 team		\$16 000 Lily Creek habitat protection \$19 600 Insulator Creek Waterway restoration				
Mala	\$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250,000 to Martu Traditional Owners to remove feral cats and assist in reintroductions \$1 million total	R2- 1 teams				Rabbit blitz at feral free area in Uluru kata Tjuta National Park		AWC Scotia enclosure
Mountain pygmy-possum	\$140 000 detector dogs \$140 000 total				2 projects worth \$2.0 million			Previous work done to expand the gene pool – successful
Northern hopping-mouse	\$235 000 Groote Eylandt \$235 000 total						NT doing island wide survey	
Numbat	\$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R4 – 1team	R2 – 1 project	\$19 500 Termite harvesting in Perup Region	4 projects worth \$5.3 million			Perth Zoo wild reintroductions
Western quoll	\$50 000 for cat management in Flinders Ranges \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$800 000 total	R4 – 6 teams			3 projects worth \$4.4 million		Considerable investment from WA and SA governments	FAME investment
Western ringtail possum	\$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R4 – 7 teams		\$14 250 Urban Habitat Project				
Woylie	\$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R4 – 4 teams		\$19 960 Wadderin Sanctuary Feral control	1 project worth \$1.6 million			AWC Scotia enclosure Multiple other enclosures

30 Plants by 2020

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Button wrinklewort						ANBG working on genetics research plus seed collection and conservation work		
Central Australian cabbage palm	Threatened Species Summit Project- \$320 000 to NT Government to manage waterholes where cabbage palms are growing	Four projects to manage buffel grass, collect seed and grow in botanic gardens						
Fitzgerald's mulla-mulla			\$1 015 000 – Greening Aust					
Kakadu hibiscus						ANBG and Aust Seed Bank Partnership sent expert collectors this year to Kakadu NP to collect seed		
Magenta lilly pilly		Six teams improving habitat	\$98 300 to Shortland Wetlands Centre- mid north coast, increasing population by 33%			Work underway to protect the plant at its southern limit in Booderee National Park		

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Matchstick banksia					Project 1.3 – improving fire management for threatened flora and fauna – looking at matchstick banksia's germination response to fire	ANBG working with NSW Gov to collect seed and propagate	Target species under NSW Government's Saving Our Species Program	
Mongarlowe mallee								
Morrisby's gum		Three teams – weed control, monitoring and planting complementary species						
Mossman fairy orchid	Fast tracked re-listing from extinct to critically endangered to ensure highest level of protection under EPBC Act							Australian Tropical Herbarium collection of tissue culture for preserving genetics
Ormeau bottle tree	TS Recovery Fund Election Commitment \$20 000 to Friends of the Ormeau Bottle Tree – to collect seed, protect existing trees and control weeds							
Silver daisy bush		Four teams protecting habitat	\$926 421.82	One 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant				

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Small purple pea		One team improving habitat				ANBG working on genetics research plus seed collection and conservation work		
Spiny rice flower		Four teams improving habitat	\$75 000 to East Moorabool Landcare Group Inc to improve habitat condition and extent	One 25 th Anniversary Landcare grant – \$20 000 to Western Melbourne Catchments Network for rabbit control at Mt Rothwell				
Vincentia banksia	OTSC working with the TSSC to add to national list					Booderee National Park- growing seedlings to replant into the park	Targeted species under NSW Saving our Species	

PLANT SPECIES WITH NO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACTION AS YET

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Ant plant								James Cook University and Australian Tropical Herbarium undertaking research on biological interactions with the golden ant
Black grevillea								
Blue top sun orchid								Orchid Conservation Centre, Melbourne Botanic Gardens – propagating for restoration
Bulberin nut								Working with Macadamia industry and QLD govt on updated Recovery Plan for 4 threatened Macadamia species

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Caley's grevillea								Bahai' Temple Bushcare-protecting Caley's Grevillea in the temple gardens
Fairy bells								
Fleurieu leek orchid								Orchid Conservation Centre, Melbourne Botanic Gardens –propagating for restoration
Glossy-leafed hammer-orchid								A priority species for DPAW
Little mountain palm								Lord Howe Island Board progressing Rodent Eradication Program through EPBC Referrals
Scaly-leaved featherflower								
Shy susan								
Purple wattle								
Silver gum								
Southport heath								
Turnip copperburr								
Whibley's wattle								

Big business recruited to fight extinction of endangered animals

December 31, 2016 9:00pm
JESSICA MARSZALEK



The eastern barred bandicoot – pictured here with Olivia Sodeman of Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria – is among 71 mammals, birds and plants for which funding is being sought. Picture: Rob Leeson

THE future of Australia's most endangered animals will be up for sale under a Federal Government plan to recruit big business in the fight to save vulnerable species from annihilation.

Companies will be asked to invest in 71 different mammals, birds and plants, including the bilby, the eastern barred bandicoot and the rare night parrot when Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg unveils a new Threatened Species Prospectus in the new year.

Companies including Qantas, Woolworths, Coles, Rio Tinto, Toyota and Bunnings will be approached to pay for projects designed to wrest numbers back from potential extinction.

Threatened Species Commissioner Gregory Andrews said the prospectus would be a "package of opportunity" for co-investment on projects like a feral cat strike force proposed by indigenous rangers to help meet a target to cull 2 million of the predators in five years.

Another project is to seedbank every eucalypt species across the country to guard against extinction.

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BHP Billiton is already contributing \$5.45 million to a turtle hatchery on Raine Island in the Great Barrier Reef.

But Mr Andrews said even his title could be bought by a company willing to inject funds into his agency's work, and he questioned why a brand like Qantas, with a kangaroo as its corporate logo, shouldn't help save Australia's 16 macropods at risk of extinction.

"For example, the plants and animals wouldn't care if I was the Qantas Threatened Species Commissioner if Qantas contributed, and Qantas may see a benefit in terms of their branding," he told The Sunday Mail.

"I'd like to see BHP Billiton's leadership extended to our other big corporates like Coles, Woolworths, Bunnings and Toyota, and I think there will be some fantastic opportunities for them."

Mr Frydenberg will launch the prospectus early next year.

"We all have a role to play fighting extinction and the Threatened Species Strategy Prospectus is about growing the pot of resources," he said

Feral cats now cover 99.8% of Australia



Feral cats cover 99.8% of Australia at a density of one cat for every four square kilometres, according to new research.

The research was published in the journal of Biological Conservation and brings together data from almost 100 surveys completed by 40 environmental scientists from different institutions.

It found that the total number of feral cats was much lower than the 20 million previously estimated, fluctuating between 2.1 million and 6.3 million, but while that was a surprising finding, according to Dr Sarah Legge from the University of Queensland, it was not particularly reassuring.

“It just underlines how potent cats are for Australian wildlife because it really doesn’t take many cats to have a significant negative effect,” Legge told Guardian Australia.

The cat-free areas are limited to a few islands, of which 12 had feral cat populations until they were eradicated, and 16 fenced-in cat-free reserves on the mainland.

Legge said the research provided a starting point for agencies responsible for managing cat populations and would enable better planning for baiting, trapping, shooting or other eradication programs.

The former environment minister Greg Hunt in 2015 announced a plan to kill 2 million feral cats, invoking the ire of Brigitte Bardot and Morrissey and prompting the Australian government writing to both of the prominent vegans to explain its policy.

Feral cats are presumed to be responsible for the extinction of about 20 native Australian species and for putting many more on the threatened species list. They are particularly damaging to populations of critical weight range marsupials – meaning any animal that is less than 3kg.

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The threatened species commissioner, Gregory Andrews, said the research “reaffirms the importance of ambitious targets to cull feral cats”.

“This new science shows that the density of feral cats in Australia is lower than it is in North America and Europe, and yet feral cats have been devastating for our wildlife,” he said.

“Australia is the only continent on Earth other than Antarctica where the animals evolved without cats, which is a reason our wildlife is so vulnerable to them. This reinforces the need to cull feral cats humanely and effectively.”

Among the proposals being suggested by conservationists are rebuilding dense habitat, so small marsupials have “boltholes” to escape cats, and increasing the dingo population in outback areas.

“A lot of work has shown that when you increase the number of dingoes, cat numbers are reduced,” Dr Christopher Dickman, from the University of Sydney, said.

Dickman, an enthusiastic supporter of “the dingo plan”, said dingoes preferred larger prey, such as kangaroos, emus or feral goats, and would be less likely to predate on the smaller marsupials now under threat of extinction from feral cats.

Western Australian researchers say marsupial numbers often dive after rabbit control programs as feral cats look for other sources of food

The problem of protecting sheep flocks – the main reason for the baiting and killing of the dingo population, Dickman said – could be solved by introducing “well-trained marammas”, a breed of herd guardian dogs.

Alternative methods have been suggested because feral cats are difficult to trap and kill. They do not readily take baits because they prefer their food to be moving, although a Western Australian trial has had some success, and they will not walk into cage traps. Their relatively low density of one cat every 4km sq makes hunting difficult.

Suggestions that feral cats could be trapped, desexed, and rereleased as a method of population control were “crazy”, Dickman said, because you would have to desex at least 75% of the population to have an impact. That’s almost 5 million difficult-to-trap cats. Desexing cats also extends their life expectancy, so the released cats would hunt for longer.

Cats were introduced to Australia with the first fleet, where they had been kept as ratters on convict ships. They were also imported by some settlers to help control the native rat and mice population.

On one farm near Bourke, in outback New South Wales, Dickman said, settlers ordered hundreds of cats from England and then released them in an attempt to control mice numbers.

On St Francis Island, off the South Australian coast, settlers imported cats to control the brush-tailed bettongs that were eating vegetables from the gardens. The cats completely eradicated the bettongs, Dickman said.

Their efficiency, at both hunting and breeding, makes them difficult to control. “A cat might kill 10 mice to satisfy its hunger and keep itself going through the night, but if it comes across another 50 it will kill them anyway just for the hell of it,” he said.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION DIVISION – **SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEF**

SENATE ESTIMATES, February 2017

Green Army Program

Key Facts

KPIs / Deliverables (as per 2016-17 Portfolio Budget Statements, p. 33)

- *Australia's biodiversity, including threatened species, ecological communities and migratory species, and significant heritage places, are identified, conserved and protected.*

Program / Policy outcomes

- Environmental conservation program for 17-24 year olds to train and work in the environment on projects up to six months in length.
- Projects restore native vegetation and heritage sites, protect animal habitats and regenerate wetlands in urban, rural and remote areas.

Key issues

Program Termination

s22 - material irrelevant to scope

Environmental outcomes

- Achieved through:
 - The assessment process
 - The desktop audit processes and
 - Site visits to ensure the activities are undertaken in accordance with Project Orders. Outcomes are recorded in the Department's online Monitoring, Evaluation Reporting and Improvement Tool.
- Project host surveys found 93 per cent of Project Hosts anticipated their Green Army Project would result in the intended environmental and/or heritage outcomes.

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Employment outcomes

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Campaign

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WHS

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Audits

- The Department has audited 114 projects to date, most include a site visit, as well as a review of relevant records.
- The average compliance score for all Departmental audits to date is 93% against the Deed of Standing Offer.
- Issues around non-compliance are mostly due to documentation, such as; commencement letters not being filled out correctly.

Project examples

Treatment and monitoring of Yellow Crazy Ants in and next to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Environmental example

Six Green Army teams worked collaboratively with the Wet Tropics Management Authority to control and eradicate the yellow crazy ant in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area in Far North Queensland. The Green Army teams targeted areas by hand, focusing their baiting efforts around creek edges, which are hotspots for yellow crazy ants and cannot be targeted by aerial baiting techniques. The work of the Green Army teams had a huge impact on the environment and ensured no bait runoff seeped into the waterways. Over the course of their 6 month projects the six Green Army teams undertook baiting, luring and site surveys. They determined if areas were free of infestations, controlled identified infestations and completed surveys to declare previously infested areas free of yellow crazy ants. The Wet Tropics Management Authority recognises that without the efforts of the Green Army teams, the situation would have become unmanageable. They badly needed teams on the ground, working collaboratively to target infested areas. The series of Green Army projects answered this need with coordinated teams working together to reduce the impact of the invasive pest, making a significant impact to the control and eradication of yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Restoring rare species habitat at Mulligans Flat and Jerrabomberra Wetlands 2

Environmental Example

Focus: How the project is contributing to the Threatened Species Strategy

A project in Canberra Restored Rare Species Habitat at Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary and Jerrabomberra Wetlands, which aligned with the Threatened Species Strategy, protecting the Eastern quoll and the Eastern bettong. The team built fences, undertook pest eradication work, planted trees, weeded and completed other habitat maintenance work. The team also conducted wildlife surveys and helped convert a building into an education centre for visiting school groups. The team also built a viewing platform and dipping stations for the children to participate in wetlands activities. The Habitat maintenance efforts completed by participants helped fulfil higher ecosystem functions, increasing the Eastern bettongs' and quolls ability to scratch and forage, improving water retention in the soil, increasing composting and supporting the threatened box gum woodlands that bettongs and quolls live in.

Recent Media

(Attachment A)

Project Tables

(Attachment B)

Recent media

- **The Green Army's final battleground**, The Saturday Paper, Mike Secombe, 10/12/2016 (Full article at attachment 1)
- **Cuts to Abbott's Green Army killing off our ranger programs, says KLC**, National Indigenous Times, Wendy Caccetta, 21/12/2016 (Full article at attachment 2)
- **Government digital ad spend soars**, Canberra Times, Tom McIlroy, 30/12/2016 (Full article at attachment 3)
- **PM kills off Tony Abbott's Green Army**, Australian Financial Review, Phillip Coorey, 4/12/2016 (Full article at attachment 4)
- **\$400,000 Green Army projects in limbo**, Weekender Herald, Adelaide, Lucy Robinson, 5/01/2017 (Full article at attachment 5)

The Green Army's final battleground, The Saturday Paper

(Full article at attachment 1)

Points raised in article:

- The map from the federal Environment Department is a Google Earth satellite image of Innisfail in far north Queensland, with several little red dots superimposed on it. Each dot marks the site of a project approved in the 2015-16 funding round for the so-called Green Army.
- The problem is this: the satellite image clearly shows nothing even vaguely like cassowary habitat. One site is bounded a TAFE college, cane fields, and the North Johnstone River. The "riparian vegetation" referred to on the official document is presumably a narrow straggle, a few metres wide, of mangroves along the river's edge. The two other sites are surrounded by houses and lawns. It's not viable habitat; it's suburbia.
- Both the map and the project summaries were sent to *The Saturday Paper* by James Trezise, policy analyst for the Australian Conservation Foundation, to underline a point he's been making about one of the many inadequacies of the Green Army, established with great fanfare in the 2014 budget.
- "These sites are well outside any known cassowary corridors," Trezise says. "There is no way in the world these projects would have benefited cassowaries, and no way in the world that's the best use of money for cassowary conservation."
- Take another example, a project purporting to protect threatened species in Melbourne. It actually involved "stone conservation" at the Old Melbourne Gaol and conservation of the timber deck of the historic barque *Polly Woodside*, as well as "site invigilation as part of birthday events for the *Polly Woodside* (130yrs) and Old Melbourne Gaol (170yrs)". Whatever "site invigilation" is, it clearly has nothing to do with threatened species, or any reasonable understanding of what is meant by environmental management or land care.
- The department told us (ACF) there were 323 Green Army projects benefiting threatened species. "Our review, using very generous criteria, found only about 135 were of genuine benefit. Doing generic weeding around some trees and saying 'that benefits koalas' doesn't count."

Talking points:

Cassowaries

- The map itself is inaccurate and not in fact a map from the Department's website as stated. The project sites superimposed on the map are not Green Army project sites, the project sites occur further west along the North Johnstone River near the Bruce Highway, 9 kilometres from Innisfail.
- Protecting cassowaries is only one part of the project. The overall project aims to revegetate approximately 10,000 trees across 4 hectares on the banks of the North Johnstone River to enrich and extend remnant vegetation.
- The project is helping to restore terrestrial and aquatic corridors for threatened and endangered species including the Cassowary. It will also reduce impacts on downstream estuarine conservation zones and the Great Barrier Reef.

Polly Woodside

- This project was assessed based on information provided by the applicant, and accepted as supporting threatened species outcomes. The project helped improve habitat through weed control and promoting greater conservation awareness of native vegetation.

Threatened species

- There are 642 Green Army projects involving activities aimed at protecting threatened species. These activities help threatened species recover by improving the condition of important habitat areas and include revegetation, threat reduction through weed removal and pest animal management, fencing and installing nest boxes.
- As part of the application process, applicants are required to describe how projects align or contribute to relevant local, regional or national environment or heritage plans, strategies or advice. Applicants must also detail how they will manage and maintain project outcomes following the conclusion of the project.

ARTICLE: Cuts to Abbott's Green Army killing off our ranger programs, says KLC, National Indigenous Times (Full article at attachment 2)

Points raised in article:

- Kimberley Land Council - the peak Indigenous body in Western Australia's vast Kimberley says axing the Green Army will have "enormous consequences" for the ranger network in the region.
- For many of our young rangers, this program has provided them with their first opportunity to work on country and care for country. The Green Army has acted as a pathway for young people where there is a deficiency in job readiness, linked to limited education outcomes in remote areas.
- The removal of this funding could have enormous consequences for the Kimberley Ranger Network, from loss of individual jobs to potentially losing entire ranger teams.

Talking points:

- For young Indigenous Australians looking to get involved in the Green Army there are still significant opportunities for an additional 3,000 young Australians to over the next 18 months. Any young Australians interested in joining the Green Army are encouraged to register on the Department's website or contact their local Green Army service provider.

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- Following the program's completion, opportunities for young Australians to improve their job prospects will be available through the Government's Youth Jobs PaTH, which helps young people gain the employability skills and real work experience they need to get and keep a job.

ARTICLE: Government digital ad spend soars, Canberra Times

(Full article at attachment 3)

Points raised in article:

- The federal government spent a record amount on digital advertising in Australia last financial year. Figures published by the Department of Finance in December showed total government advertising spending for major campaigns cost taxpayers \$174.7 million in 2015-16, the highest levels since 2007-08 and up by nearly \$70 million from the previous year.
- Promoting the now axed Green Army program, a signature environmental legacy of Tony Abbott's government, cost \$3 million in 2015-16, including \$600,000 commitments for television and digital platforms.

Talking points

- At the time of the Green Army recruitment and call for project campaign, the Green Army was an ongoing program and it was appropriate to fund.
- With almost 300 projects yet to roll out, there are still significant opportunities for an additional 3,000 young Australians to be involved in the program.

ARTICLE: \$400,000 Green Army projects in limbo, Weekender Herald, Adelaide

(Full article at attachment 4)

Point raised in article:

- A recent federal government budget review has left two Green Army projects promised by the Liberal government for the electorate of Mayo in lead up to the 2016 election in limbo.
- Nick Xenophon Team (NXT) Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie said she will seek written confirmation from Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg that the projects will go ahead.

Talking point:

- The two projects are election commitments and are confirmed to go ahead. The Minister has written to Ms Sharkie to confirm the projects.

ARTICLE: PM kills off Tony Abbott's Green Army, Australian Financial Review

(Full article at attachment 5)

Point raised in article:

- A proportion of Green Army funding was being spent on fees to job seeker agencies who sourced the workers, rather than on projects themselves.

Talking point:

- Service Providers receive a project fee for each project, out of which they must provide project consumables, non-basic materials, training costs, participant allowances and any other costs associated with the project, including recruitment where required.

Project Tables

- The project fee is \$196,330.37 (GST inclusive) or \$178,482.15 (GST exclusive). The following tables provide a project breakdown by round, state/territory, Service Provider, project location, Host type and investment priority.

Table 1. Round priorities and success rates

Round	Round Priorities*	Project Applications Received	Successful Project Applications	Success Rate
Round 1	Nil	307	265	86.3%
Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote area and Indigenous outcomes Threatened Species outcomes 	385	283	73.5%
Round 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Barrier Reef outcomes Remote area and Indigenous outcomes Threatened species outcomes 	516	156	30.2%
NDRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental recovery in a natural disaster declared area 	44	44	100.0%
Round 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage outcomes Outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef Remote area and Indigenous outcomes Threatened species outcomes 	697	397	57.0%
Round 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatened Species Outcomes 	1251	0	0
2016 ECs	Nil	119 planned	-	-
Total	NA	3,200	1,145	58.8%

* This column outlines particular priorities that were identified for each round. Applicants were still able to submit project applications that fell outside of these priorities, so long as the project/s were consistent with the round's eligibility criteria, investment priorities and strategic objectives.

Table 2. Approved projects by State and Round

State / Territory	Round 1*	Round 2*	Round 3	NDRR	Round 4	Total (inc. NDDR)
NSW	108	87	59	20	131	405
ACT	1	7	4	0	3	15
VIC	45	34	23	5	50	157
QLD	55	92	30	19	62	258
SA	26	17	4	0	48	95
TAS	16	12	3	0	24	55
WA	14	28	30	0	73	145
NT	0	6	3	0	6	15
Total	265	283	156	44	397	1145

*There were 69 approved Round 1 projects announced with Round 2.

Table 3. Approved Projects by Service Provider and State

State / Territory	Campbell Page	CVA	CoAct	Manpower	Workskil	Total
ACT		11		4		15
NSW	98	190	39	78		405
NT		14	1			15
QLD	60	143		55		258
SA		55		9	31	95
TAS		35		20		55
VIC		105	21	31		157
WA		62	63	20		145
Total	158	615	124	217	31	1145

Table 4. Approved Projects by Remoteness and State

State / Territory	Inner Regional Australia	Major Cities of Australia	Outer Regional Australia	Remote Australia	Very Remote Australia	Total
ACT	4	11				15
NSW	194	145	48	12	6	405
NT			5	10		15
QLD	89	48	89	19	13	258
SA	41	14	22	13	5	95
TAS	20		35			55
VIC	78	54	25			157
WA	29	34	33	20	29	145
Total	455	306	257	74	53	1145
Total %	39.74%	26.72%	22.45%	6.46%	4.63%	100%

Table 5. Approved Projects by Project Host type

Organisation Type	Projects
Community Organisation	16
Commonwealth Government	2
Education and Employment Organisation	8
Educational Institution	10
Employment Provider	10
Environmental Organisation (including Landcare Groups)	276
Heritage Organisation	13
Indigenous Organisation	86
Local Government	376
NRM Organisation	95
Private Individual	4
Service Provider/Nominated Supplier	164
State Government	74
Youth and Education Organisation	8
Youth Organisation	3
Total	1,145

Table 6. Projects by Investment Priority

State	Aquatic Ecosystem*	Heritage**	Increase Native Vegetation	Protect Threatened Species***	20MT (R4 Only)
ACT	0	3	7	5	0
NSW	81	62	100	153	9
NT	2	0	3	8	2
QLD	71	36	64	77	10
SA	3	2	36	45	9
TAS	4	12	8	30	1
VIC	19	30	61	45	2
WA	18	36	25	62	4
Total	198	181	304	425	37
%	17.29%	15.81%	26.55%	37.12%	3.23%

* Ramsar Wetlands, water quality improvement or coastal projects

** May include Indigenous cultural heritage and natural World/National Heritage, in addition to built World/National heritage places

*** Threatened species figure is different from total number of threatened species projects. This is because the data was obtained from project applications where applicants could only select one investment priority in their application. This meant projects that had more than one investment priority were unable to provide this information.

Green Army Program

Issue

The Green Army Program will cease at the end of 2017-18. Almost 300 new projects remain to be delivered.

Talking points

- The Government's decision to close the Green Army Program to new projects was difficult but necessary for budget repair. The Government will achieve savings of \$224.7 million over four years from 2016-17 by terminating the Green Army Program.
- The Government will deliver on all projects committed to across Australia from previous funding rounds and during the election campaign.

Impact of the Program ending

- Participants on existing projects are unaffected. Almost 3,000 places remain available for new participants on approved projects that are yet to begin.
- Some project hosts, such as Landcare groups and local government, expressed disappointment that the program is ending and frustration that their applications for Round 5 were not considered. Other funding opportunities exist under the National Landcare Program, including through the additional commitment of \$100 million.
- The Program's five Service Providers are disappointed. They indicated they will downsize operations overtime by reducing staffing levels and cancelling vehicle leases. Service Providers are diversified organisation and will continue to operate after the program ends.

Election Commitments

- Three 2013 election commitments and 119 projects announced during the 2016 election campaign will be completed before the Green Army Program closes on 30 June 2018.
- Election commitments will be met from within the existing Green Army appropriation.
- The Department has allocated projects to Service Providers and is in the process of inviting nominated Project Hosts to apply for projects.
- Election commitment projects require an application to allow the Department to assess whether projects are an appropriate use of Commonwealth money and to ensure they meet

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Last updated: 11/12/2017 1:53 PM

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the program's eligibility and suitability requirements, consider work, health and safety risks, and align with the goals of protecting and conserving environmental matters.

Major outcomes to date

- 642 projects involving activities aimed at protecting threatened species, 304 projects involving activities aimed at increasing native vegetation and 203 projects include activities that protect national and world heritage sites.
- Green Army projects have collectively treated over 90,000 hectares for weeds, removed over 24,000 cubic metres of debris and planted almost 2 million plants.
- All Green Army participants complete first aid and Work Health and Safety training. Participants can undertake training towards a Certificate I or II or nationally endorsed skills set. Almost 80 per cent of participants report qualifications and skills they have gained from the Green Army will be useful in finding employment.
- The Green Army continues to be positively received by participants and the community. As at 13 January 2017, 93 per cent of host organisations indicated they would participate again. More than 98 per cent of participants reported a positive experience.

Round Five (cancelled)

- Green Army Round Five opened on 6 May 2016 for applications and closed on 16 June 2016. After the MYEFO announcement terminating the Green Army program, all applicants were informed their applications were unsuccessful on 22 December 2016.
- Seven Round Five applications meet 2016 election commitment projects. Those applicants have been notified their projects will go ahead under the 2016 election commitment process.

Background

Projects and Participants

- As at 31 December 2016:
 - 1,264 projects have been announced.
 - 133 projects are on ground, with a further 854 complete, totalling 987 projects.
 - Nearly 8,000 participants (excluding supervisors) have been engaged in Green Army.
 - More than 5,550 young people have completed a project.
 - 1,539 participants (or 18 per cent) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
 - There have only been three reportable work, health and safety incidents to date. In one instance the participant returned to work the next day. In the other two incidents, one participant suffered a compression fracture to their T3 and T4 vertebrae after falling from a rope swing during their lunch break; the other twisted their ankle stepping out of a vehicle onto uneven ground; both returned to work 14 and 11 days respectively.

Evaluation

- An evaluation of the Program by the Department is underway and is expected to be completed by mid-2017.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION DIVISION – **SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEF**

SENATE ESTIMATES, February 2017

20 Million Trees Programme

Key Facts

- Approximately 95 per cent of 20 Million Trees projects (including 100 per cent of Service Provider Projects) will support EPBC listed threatened species and/or threatened ecological communities.

2013 Election Commitments

- Greening the west of Melbourne:
 - Funding of up to \$5.0 million (GST exclusive) for Leadwest (the organisation identified in the election commitment) to deliver 1 million trees in west Melbourne. 269,884 trees have been planted to date.
 - Focused on Melbourne's six western municipalities (Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham). The Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority is also receiving funding to deliver the commitment.
- Cumberland Conservation Corridor:
 - Commitment to plant 1 million trees within the Cumberland Conservation Corridor.
 - This commitment supports the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest. It was formerly extensive across the Cumberland Plain, but now only small patches remain. This TEC provides habitat for 16 animal and 12 plant Threatened Species including the Swift Parrot and the Spiked Riceflower.
 - Contracts have been signed and work is in progress to deliver 13 projects (totalling \$4.565 million GST exclusive) for the planting of over 740,000 trees in the Greater Western Sydney area, NSW.
 - \$4.7 million has funded the acquisition of 44.43 hectares of land in Londonderry and Mulgoa in Greater Western Sydney, which will be protected and managed in-perpetuity for conservation.
 - \$2.5 million allocated for Green Army teams. 15 Green Army teams have been approved. 12 projects are complete and three are underway.

Ad Hoc Projects:

- One Tree Per Child:

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Date: 7 February 2017

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- A discretionary grant of \$300,000 to “Do Something!” for the One Tree Per Child project to deliver 100,000 trees by engaging locally based organisations, such as local councils and local tree planting organisations, to deliver on-ground revegetation activities in partnership with local schools. All Revegetation activities have been undertaken on sites individually greater than 0.2 hectares.
- The project period ended on 15 December 2016 and Do Something! is in the process of reporting. Their report will confirm final numbers of trees planted.
- Planet Ark:

A discretionary grant of \$100,000 to Planet Ark for their ‘21,000 Trees for 21 years of National Tree Day’ project. This project will deliver 21,000 trees by engaging locally based organisations, such as community groups and local schools to deliver on-ground revegetation activities. The projects will deliver revegetation activities on sites individually greater than 0.2 hectares and each project must plant a minimum of 1000 trees per site.

Recent Media

Buzzfeed published an article 16 January 2017: *No-One Knows How Many Trees Have Been Planted As Part Of The Govt’s 20 Million Trees Program* (**Attachment A**).

The article raised several issues which have been identified and responded to below.

- **Is the first tree planted as part of the 20 Million Trees Programme still alive?**

There is no record of the first tree to be planted under the Program. It is not possible to say with any certainty whether the tree is alive or dead. However, the tree that Minister Hunt planted at the Greening the West of Melbourne project launch on 6 May 2015 was recently confirmed as alive and well.

- **How many trees have died?**

It is not possible to quantify the number of trees that have died. Final estimates of tree numbers established by each project will be determined when a final plant survival survey is completed for each project. Some loss of trees is expected. Proponents are required to ‘make good’ these losses and deliver the contracted number of trees by the end of their projects.

- **Will the 20 Million Trees Programme count dead trees?**

No. Final estimates of tree numbers established by each project will be determined when a final plant survival survey is completed.

- **How long does a tree need to live for it to be included in the count?**

The final plant survival surveys will estimate, at the time that a project concludes, how many trees have been established by that project. Where direct seeding is used, sufficient time is allowed to determine the success of germination prior to the final plant survival surveys.

- **How is the Department ensuring survival of trees planted?**

A key criteria for the selection of 20 Million Trees projects is the proponent's long term commitment to caring for the trees planted. The Department also considers the likelihood of tree survival, taking into account a range of matters including, the appropriateness of the plantings, the organisation's capacity to deliver, make good provisions (that will ensure the nominated number of trees survive to the end of the period), monitoring activities and climatic conditions.

- **Why have only [2.89m] trees been planted to date?**

Based on 20 Million Trees project progress reporting, it is estimated that 2.89 million trees have been planted via tubestock and direct seeding to date. Final estimates of tree numbers established by each project will only be determined at the end of each project, when a final plant survival survey is completed. The majority of grants and service provider projects that are currently being delivered are due to conclude in June 2018.

In order to maximise the survival rates of native trees and vegetation to be delivered under the Program, the Program ensures adequate preparatory activities, such as weed removal and seed collecting, are undertaken before plantings take place, and that plantings occur at the right time of year. The Department expects the majority of trees funded to date under the Program will be planted from winter 2016 to 2018.

Source: https://www.buzzfeed.com/aliceworkman/turnbull-minis-tree?utm_term=.vn4OO9E9D#.vrvo0606e

No-One Knows How Many Trees Have Been Planted As Part Of The Govt's 20 Million Trees Program

The first tree died.

posted on Jan 16, 2017, at 4:20 p m

Alice Workman

BuzzFeed News Reporter, Australia

The government doesn't know how many trees have been planted as part of its "20 million trees by 2020" program.



Via [Twitter: @Birmo](#) ID: 10328926

A spokesperson from the Department of the Environment and Energy told BuzzFeed News they couldn't say how many trees were in the ground as the final tree-count isn't made until the end of each project. The majority of projects won't be complete until June 2018.

The first contracts to plant trees were funded in May 2015, but many of the project sites required "preparation", so seeds weren't planted until 2016.

Based on progress reports, it's estimated 2.89 million native trees have been planted. Thirteen and a half million trees have been "contracted" to be planted at more than 120 locations across the country.

The department says trees that die don't contribute to the final count.

A source told BuzzFeed News that the very first tree planted in the "20 million trees by 2020" program has in fact already died.



Lukas Coch / AAPIMAGE ID: 10328872

“20 million trees by 2020” was an election promise made by Tony Abbott in 2010 and 2013. Along with the [Green Army \(RIP\)](#) it was one of the cornerstones of the Abbott government’s “sun-and-soil” Direct Action plan.

\$70 million was re-allocated from Landcare to pay for the six-year program in the [2014 budget](#).

Each tree costs \$5 to plant. The aim is to create “[urban forests](#)” and green zones in regions and beside highways.

At the time Abbott said bushland was the “lungs” of Australia, and that planting more trees would deliver “real environmental benefits to local communities”.

But critics say the program, which equates to less than one tree per person, has minimal impact on Australia’s national emissions and is a waste of time.

The government has pledged to reduce emissions to 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030.

“Planting more trees is a good thing for our environment, but only if you actually plant them,” said Greens forest spokesperson Janet Rice.



Rice told BuzzFeed News the government could have a real impact on emission reductions by putting an end to native forest logging.

THREATENED SPECIES STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

SENATE ESTIMATES, February 2017

Key messages and progress

Threatened Species Strategy first year report

- The Threatened Species Strategy's first year report was released on 2 December 2016 and is available on the Department's website (**Attachment F**).
- The report highlights progress in delivering the Threatened Species Strategy and provides an overview on how each of the targets in the Action Plan are tracking.
- Of the 26 targets to be met in the first year of the Threatened Species Strategy, 21 were successfully delivered, with seven targets over achieved.
- The four partially achieved targets will be completed in the coming months. The one incomplete target refers to uptake of the FeralCatScan app. It was designed to maximise uptake of the app and mobilise community support.

Threatened Species Recovery Fund

- On 5 June 2016, a \$5 million Threatened Species Recovery Fund was announced to invest in community grants for local projects that closely align with the targets of the Threatened Species Strategy.
- This included the first nine projects to be funded (election commitments). All nine recipients have been contacted and the first payments will be made in the coming months.
- My Office is currently working on the design of the open grant round of the Threatened Species Recovery Fund. It is anticipated that it will open for applications in the coming months.
- The Fund will support communities to undertake practical action to protect threatened species like numbats and cassowaries.

Threatened Species Prospectus

- The Threatened Species Prospectus was launched by Minister Frydenberg at Taronga Zoo on 20 February. The Prospectus is an innovative financing tool aimed at mobilising the business sector to co-invest in conservation programmes and deliver biodiversity outcomes.
 - The Prospectus includes more than 50 projects developed in consultation with the community, including from zoos, state and territory governments, non-government organisations and committed community groups.
 - The Prospectus represents an opportunity to significantly increase investment in conservation. Projects included in the Prospectus support the targets and action areas in the Threatened Species Strategy.
-

Prospectus facts

- Contains 51 projects
- Total combined value of \$50.23 million (\$50,230,800)
- Has projects addressing 41 (out of 70 or 59%) species that are targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, including:
 - Numbat
 - Bilby
 - Mallee emu-wren
 - Magenta lilly pilly
 - Night parrot
- A further 180 species have projects that will benefit them, including:
 - Platypus
 - Gouldian finch
 - Northern quoll
 - Tasmanian devil
- Wide variety of projects from a **\$45,000** project to save one of Australia's most threatened gum trees, **Morrisby's gum**, to a **\$5.5 million** project that will build a mainland quarantine facility to help the critically endangered **Orange-bellied Parrot**.
- Many of the projects **can be supported in-part** and **co-investment opportunities** exist through Australian Government programs such as the new **Threatened Species Recovery Fund**.

Project examples:

- Insure **all 75 of our threatened eucalypts** through seedbanking and rewilding (Page 88 \$990,000)
 - Increase the Victorian **eastern bristlebird** population by more than 40 per cent (Page 96 \$735,000)
 - Work with **farmers** to save species like the **mahogany glider** (Page 22 \$1.46m) and the **Australasian bittern** (Page 48 \$450,000) by improving sustainable land management practices – farmers coexisting with threatened species
 - Double the populations of threatened mammals in **Mt Rothwell** Sanctuary for future rewilding (Page 70 \$1.5m)
-

Threatened Species Strategy - Other key messages

Key message	Examples	Supporting information
Since 2014, more than \$227 million has been committed to projects in support of threatened species.	<p>Majority funded through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Landcare Programme • Green Army • 20 Million Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of on- ground action section 3 tab A. • Funding breakdown: section 5
This equates to over 1000 projects supporting threatened species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Pygmy Possum • Green parrot • Western quoll 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of on- ground action: section 3 tab A.
TS Strategy has 60 targets in total.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 has 26 targets and 21 are complete • 7 overachieved • 4 targets to be completed this year • 1 target not met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 report: section 3 tab F
All 20 birds and mammals announced	Actions are underway for all the birds and all the mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and projects for target species is at section 3 tab C
30 targeted plants were announced on 7 September 2016.	Actions are already underway for over 15 of the plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and projects for target species is at section 3 tab C

Targets implementation overview

Target	Update	Supporting information
Feral cats and their impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taskforce established • Third meeting held September 2016, as well as first community roundtable • Over \$30 million is being invested in projects that provide practical, on-ground action initiatives to reduce feral cat impacts. Including 105 Green Army projects, worth over \$18 million addressing feral cats. 	<p>Feral cat information in section 11</p> <p>On ground examples in section 11 appendix A</p> <p>Feral cat funding breakdown in section 11 appendix B</p>
20 mammals and birds by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First 12 mammals and birds announced at Threatened Species Summit • Remaining 8 mammals and birds announced on 22 January 2016 (ahead of schedule) • All birds and mammals have projects underway 	<p>Project examples at section 3 tab A</p> <p>More on the birds and mammals in section 3 tab C</p>
Protecting Australia's plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 targeted plants announced 7 September 2016 • Recovery actions already underway for over 15 plants • Working with Australian Seed Bank Partnership on seed collection targets 	<p>List of projects underway at section 3 tab C</p> <p>List of plants at section 3 tab C</p>
Improving recovery practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAM leading. • All birds and mammals targeted for recovery in the Strategy have up to date conservation advices or recovery plans in place • Guidelines for best practice recovery in preparation 	<p>Recovery Plan updates at section 3 tab D</p>

Monitoring and reporting

- Strategy has a Project Implementation Plan with appropriate governance to ensure timely delivery and reporting.
- All projects will report through MERIT on outcomes and progress.
- This is a simple Australian Government tool to capture information.
- The first report on the progress was published in December 2016.

Timeline of milestones

2014	
2 July	Threatened Species Commissioner announced
17 November	\$2 million announced for Parks Australia projects
2015	
12 February	\$722 000 announced for 11 projects
3 March	1 st Commissioner's report launched
16 July	Threatened Species Summit
16 July	Strategy launched
16 July	\$6.6 million announced for 20 strategy implementation projects
16 July	12 birds and mammals announced
16 July	First <i>Prospectus for Private Investment</i> launched
31 August	<i>Leadbeater's possum Action Plan</i> launched
1 December	Feral Cat Taskforce established and 1 st meeting
2016	
22 January	8 mammals and birds announced
22 January	Frigatebird initiative announced
22 January	2 nd Commissioner's report launched
3 March	Minister announces \$191 million of funding committed to projects with threatened species outcomes
5 June	\$5 million Threatened Species Recovery Fund announced
1 September	Third feral cat taskforce meeting
2 September	Feral cat community roundtable
7 September	30 plants announced
2 December	Year One Report on the TS Strategy released
2017	
20 February	Prospectus launched

On - ground examples

Feral cat detector dog protecting mountain pygmy-possums

- **\$140 000** provided for **detector dogs protecting the mountain pygmy-possum and konoom**. Dog and handlers are on the ground and helping to improve trapping practices. Since the dogs have been working, they have **caught and euthanized 19 cats and 5 foxes**. Seeing **more juvenile mountain pygmy-possums and more bandicoots**.

Norfolk Island rodent control expansion to protect green parrots

- Green Parrot numbers continue upward trend with the population now estimated to be around **350-400, an increase from 50-100 in 2013**. 77 chicks (including 35 females) were successfully fledged in 2016. **Mobilised \$300 000** to expand rodent control in and outside of Norfolk Island National Park

Christmas Island feral cat eradication

- **16 000 Eradicat® baits deployed** through the forest during the dry season between June and October 2015. Concurrent with forest baiting, the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife **baited all roads and tracks on the island**. Parks and Wildlife also trapped stray cats around the township, and undertook the annual domestic cat survey. **Provided \$500 000 in funding** through Parks Australia to carry out the eradication in partnership with the community, the local council and mining company on the island.

Western quolls in the Flinders Ranges

- **115 feral cats removed** since Jan 2014. As many as **250 translocated western quolls** now thriving. Government **provided \$55 000 to support euthanising feral cats**. The final release and the successful completion of the translocation of western quolls into the Flinders Ranges will occur on 6 May 2016.

WA Emergency Baiting

- **Nearly 150 000 hectares of emergency feral cat baiting completed in Western Australia** to protect the Gilbert's potoroo in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve (3 000 hectares) and western ground parrot in Cape Arid National Park (145 000 hectares). Both species listed as priorities in the Threatened Species Strategy. **Ground trapping also removed 7 cats** from critical western ground parrot habitat.

Central rock-rat baiting

- Emergency feral cat baiting (Eradict) was undertaken in August 2016 in the central rock-rat's core habitat to help avoid extinction, supported by a \$220 000 investment through the National Landcare Programme. This will also support plans to transfer some of the rock rats to Newhaven Sanctuary when numbers have sufficiently recovered.

Western Ground parrot - workshop

- A workshop for the critically endangered western ground parrot took place on 30 March 2016. This was in response to recent extensive bushfires which destroyed around 90% of known occupied habitat, increasing the risk of extinction. The workshop identified and prioritised emergency interventions for the species by bringing together experts to provide advice for emergency actions. The Australian Government contributed \$5 000 towards the workshop.

Eastern barred bandicoot

- Community support for the eastern barred bandicoot is high, being the most cited targeted mammal for Green Army projects - with 26 teams contributing towards its recovery. This is on top of over \$695 000 in projects supported through the 20 Million Trees and National Landcare Programmes.

Silver Daisy Bush

- On ground action is well underway for the silver daisy bush, with a project worth \$433 440 funded through the second tranche of the 20 Million Trees Programme's large-scale component, two projects under Round 2 of the Programs to the value of \$200 000, and three Green Army teams undertaking recovery actions for the species.

Fitzgerald's mulla mulla

- One project funded through the second tranche of the 20 Million Trees Programme's large-scale component worth over \$1 million is undertaking recovery actions for the Fitzgerald mulla mulla.

Bilby Festival

- \$40 000 contributed to the Bilby Festival to share knowledge on Indigenous land management and highlight the significance of Indigenous lands for the conservation of the Bilby (80% of bilbies on Indigenous lands).
-

BACK POCKET BRIEF –

Overview of the Threatened Species Strategy

SENATE ESTIMATES, February 2017

Outcome 1 Program 1.1 and 1.3

Budget

Achieving the targets in the Threatened Species Strategy relies on mobilising resources through existing Australian Government programs, state and territory governments, the private sector and through community engagement.

Environment Budget Statement Key Performance Indicators (PBS 2016-17)

- Implementing the Threatened Species Strategy
 - Underway and on track
- Number of natural resource management projects demonstrating maintenance or improvement in the condition of targeted threatened species habitat by June 2018. Number of projects funded annually with focus on threatened species recovery.
 - Since the appointment of the Threatened Species Commissioner in 2014, more than \$211 million has been mobilised for 997 projects with threatened species outcomes. The majority of these projects will contribute to improving habitat condition to support threatened species by 2020.
- Reverse population decline in 20 mammal species by 2020. Increase in area of land managed to reduce threats to nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities by June 2018.
 - Completed – A report to Minister Frydenberg on progress against Year 1 targets was released in October 2016

Threatened Species Strategy first year report

- The Threatened Species Strategy first year report is on the Department's website
- The report highlights progress in delivering the Threatened Species Strategy.
- Of the 26 targets to be met in the first year of the Threatened Species Strategy, 21 were successfully delivered, with seven targets over achieved.
- The four partially achieved targets will be completed in the coming months. The one incomplete target refers to uptake of the FeralCatScan app. It was designed to maximise uptake of the app and mobilise community support.

Threatened Species Recovery Fund

- On 5 June 2016, a \$5 million Threatened Species Recovery Fund was announced to invest in community grants for local projects that closely align with the targets of the Threatened Species Strategy.
- This included the first nine projects to be funded.
- The Fund also includes a competitive round where applicants from across Australia can apply for funding to protect threatened species.

Threatened Species Prospectus

- On 20 February 2017 the Minister launched the Threatened Species Prospectus.
- The Prospectus has 51 projects valued at over \$50 million that are designed to encourage partnerships and leverage private sector investment into threatened species conservation.
- One \$500,000 project has already been funded through a partnership between San Diego Zoo and the University of Melbourne that aims to model key threats to threatened aquatic species and the platypus using eDNA.

Possible questions/issues

MONITORING/REPORTING

- The Threatened Species Commissioner currently reports yearly to the Minister for Environment and Energy. These reports cover actions identified in the Action Plan and summarise results of investments against them. The Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner engages with governments, non-government organisations, experts and communities to use the most up-to-date scientific understanding to track progress.
- The Australian Government has developed MERIT (the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Tool) as a real-time field data capture and reporting system for environmental management programs. It enhances and simplifies reporting.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LACK OF ACTION ON FROGS, REPTILES, MARINE LIFE, INVERTEBRATES

- The Strategy's 2015/16 Action Plan is the first iteration of the new national approach.
- Wide consultation informed the initial key groups - plants, mammals, and birds. Progress on these will create momentum and build the public profile of Australia's threatened species.
- For a full list of all target species identified in the Strategy, see **Appendix A**.

BUDGET and 'WHERE MONEY WILL COME FROM'

- The Threatened Species Strategy provides a coordinating framework for national effort. Australian Government resourcing for the Threatened Species Strategy comes from natural resource management programs.
- We all have a role to play in threatened species recovery. The Strategy motivates and encourages investment from a wide array of sources, including state and territory governments, business and non-government sectors.

WHY IS AUS GOV RELYING ON PRIVATE SECTOR TO FUND PROJECTS

- Threatened Species Strategy is about the formation of partnerships and raising a broader awareness of threatened species management and issues in the community.
- Some examples of successful partnerships include:
 - Raine Island Turtles and BHP
 - Platypus Spot App and google
 - FAME with SA Gov, Ecological Horizons and TO's to save Western quoll in the Flinders Ranges









TARGETED SPECIES IN THE STRATEGY

APPENDIX A

Threatened Plants		
Small Purple Pea	Ormeau Bottle Tree	Southport Heath
Little Mountain Palm	Ant Plant	Morrisby's Gum
Vincentia Banksia	Purple Wattle	Spiny Rice Flower
Caley's Grevillea	Mossman Fairy Orchid	Turnip Copperburr
Magenta Lilly Pilly	Bulberin Nut	Silver Gum
Fairy Bells	Silver Daisy Bush	Button Wrinklewort
Mongarlowe Mallee	Whibley's Wattle	Matchstick Banksia
Central Australian Cabbage Palm	Fleurieu Leek Orchid	Fitzgerald's Mulla-Mulla
Kakadu Hibiscus	Blue Top Sun Orchid	Scaly-Leaved Featherflower
Glossy-Leafed Hammer-Orchid	Shy Susan	Black Grevillea
Threatened Mammals		
Mala	Western Quoll	Gilbert's Potoroo
Mountain Pygmy-Possum	Kangaroo Island Dunnart	Western Ringtail Possum
Greater Bilby	Eastern Barred Bandicoot	Black-Footed Rock-Wallaby
Golden Bandicoot	Central Rock-Rat	Eastern Quoll
Numbat	Leadbeater's Possum	Woylie
Brush-Tailed Rabbit-Rat	Eastern Bettong	Northern Hopping Mouse
Mahogany Glider		Christmas Island Flying-Fox
Threatened Birds		
Mallee Emu-Wren	Norfolk Island Boobook Owl	Southern Cassowary
Night Parrot	Eastern Bristlebird	Swift Parrot
Regent Honeyeater	Helmeted Honeyeater	Australasian Bittern
Hooded Plover	Plains Wanderer	White-Throated Grasswren
Yellow Chat	Norfolk Island Green Parrot	Golden-Shouldered Parrot
Western Ground Parrot	Orange-Bellied Parrot	Malleefowl
Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo (South-Eastern)		Eastern Curlew

Threatened Species Strategy Implementation: Summary Report

August 2016

Target / Sub-targets	Status	Area of primary responsibility	Tracking 
TACKLING FERAL CATS AND THEIR IMPACTS			
1. Action commenced for feral cat eradication on five islands	<i>Complete:</i> The five islands for feral cat eradication have been identified (Christmas Island, Bruny Island, Kangaroo Island, French Island and Dirk Hartog Island). Action is underway on each island, including community engagement, eradication trials and culling.	Office of TS Commissioner	
2. Action commenced on three mainland feral-free areas to secure threatened species and identify two more areas for action	<i>Complete.</i> Action has commenced for fenced areas at Newhaven Sanctuary, Astrebla Downs/Diamantina National Park and Mulligan's Flat. The NSW Government has announced three additional fenced areas and Western Australia has announced one.	Office of TS Commissioner	
3. Undertake cat management across 1 million hectares, using the best techniques for each location	<i>Complete.</i> We have overachieved on this target with 1.4 million hectares of cat management in Western Australia alone. Different techniques being used across Australia for landscape management include aerial baiting, skilled shooting and trapping, detector dogs, exclusion fencing, cat squirter traps and indigenous hunting.	Office of TS Commissioner	
4. Identify priority locations on Commonwealth land and commence action for best practice feral cat management	<i>Complete:</i> Action is occurring in Kakadu National Park and on Christmas Island. The Commissioner's office is continuing to seek partnership with stakeholders to identify additional priority areas, particularly the Department of Defence.	Office of TS Commissioner	
5. Curiosity® cat bait approved and deployed	<i>Partially complete:</i> The Department has submitted Curiosity to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for registration. Approval is expected in March 2017. Medium term risk will remain for the wide distribution of Curiosity through the lack of market incentives to commercialise.	Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Branch	
6. 100 per cent of feral cats culled in Australia to be reported in Cat Scan phone app	<i>Not met:</i> Promotion of the FeralCatScan app is ongoing. The Commissioner has written to all NRM CEOs and all local government Mayors, encouraging intensified effort and use of the app. Negotiations for use of FeralCatScan by Green Army groups is also progressing. FeralCatScan is being used strategically on Kangaroo Island, however not all cats culled are reported in the app. Compared to the other feral cat sub-targets, this is the least significant in terms of risk consequences.	Office of TS Commissioner	
7. 150 000 feral cats culled at the national level	<i>Partially complete:</i> A stratified survey will be prepared by RMIT University, to provide an estimate of national effort.	Office of TS Commissioner	

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20 MAMMALS BY 2020			
8. Action commenced for at least five of the 10 identified mammals	Complete: We will overachieve on this target because action has commenced for all 10 identified targeted mammals. Examples include: detector dogs tackling feral cats to protect mountain pygmy-possum, feral cat control measures to support western quoll releases into the Flinders Ranges, and Indigenous ranger cat management in black-footed rock-wallaby habitat.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓
9. Planning complete on actions for 10 identified mammals	Complete: All 20 mammals identified in the Strategy have forward workplans established from now until 2020. These are flexible and adaptable to new knowledge and species needs.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓
10. Action commenced for Leadbeater's possum and central rock-rat	Complete: Leadbeater's Action Plan released on Aug 31 and all actions committed to within the document are on track. Two projects funded as part of Threatened Species Strategy supporting recovery of central rock-rat.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓
11. Additional 8 mammals identified for targeted conservation, in consultation with partners	Complete: The additional 8 mammals were announced by the Minister on 22 January 2016.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓
20 BIRDS BY 2020			
12. Action commenced for at least five of the 10 identified birds (listed above)	Complete: All 20 birds identified in the Strategy have at least one project contributing to their recovery.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓
13. Planning complete on actions for all identified birds	Complete: All 20 birds identified in the Strategy have forward workplans established from now until 2020. These are flexible and adaptable to new knowledge and species needs.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓
14. Action commenced for orange-bellied parrot and western ground parrot	Complete: OBP urgent strategic response workshop held on 12 June 2015, Final Action Plan developed 12 October: \$525 000 announced in emergency response in partnership with Tas Government. Western Ground parrot supported by \$1.7 million baiting program, fire management and \$40 000 for Perth Zoo scoping captive breeding program, monitoring and survey. A \$5000 contribution supported a Conservation Action Planning workshop, part of the emergency response plan for the Western Ground Parrot in response to the recent bushfires was held on 30 March 2015.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓
15. Remaining eight birds identified for targeted conservation and planning in place for action, in consultation with partners	Complete: Additional 8 birds were announced by the Minister on 22 January 2016.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓
PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S PLANTS			
16. Ensure at least 80 per cent of projects funded through the 20 Million Trees and Green Army Programs support the recovery of threatened plants and animals by providing suitable threatened species habitat	Complete: More than 82 per cent of projects funded through the Green Army and 20 Million Trees programs since the release of the Strategy support the recovery of threatened plants, animals and their habitat by planting trees, removing weeds and debris and controlling pests.	Office of TS Commissioner	✓

17. Recovery actions underway for at least 20 threatened plants	<p>Complete: Recovery actions underway for 27 threatened plant species through 22 projects under the 20 Million Trees Program. This is in addition to over 100 threatened plant species benefiting from Green Army projects since the release of the Strategy.</p>	Office of TS Commissioner	✔
18. Recovery actions underway for at least 20 threatened ecological community sites	<p>Complete: Recovery actions are underway through the 20 Million Trees Programme at 54 threatened ecological community sites across Australia.</p>	Office of TS Commissioner	✔
19. Targeted species and communities for on-ground recovery action and seed collection are identified	<p>Complete: The 30 plants targeted for recovery by 2020 were announced by the Minister on 7 September 2016. Parks Australia and the Australian Seed Bank Partnership have identified priorities for seed collection to 2020.</p>	Office of TS Commissioner	✔
20. Projects designed to fill gaps in collections and genetic representativeness and support on-ground recovery are identified for targeted species and communities	<p>Partially complete: All 30 plants identified in the Strategy have workplans established from now until 2020. These include focus areas for on ground recovery and seed collection. Recovery actions are underway in 19 different ecological communities through the 20 Million Trees Program.</p>	Parks Australia	✔
IMPROVING RECOVERY PRACTICES			
21. Australian Government and all states and territories agree to common assessment method for species listing	<p>Complete: All jurisdictions have endorsed the Common Assessment Method (CAM). A formal agreement has since been signed by Western Australia, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and the Australian government. All jurisdictions, including those who are yet to sign, are involved in implementing the common assessment method.</p>	Protected Species and Communities Branch	✔
22. All identified birds and mammals in the 2020 recovery targets of this Action Plan have up-to-date conservation advice or recovery plans in place	<p>Complete: All identified birds and mammals in the 2020 recovery targets have up to date conservation advice or recovery plans in place.</p>	Protected Species and Communities Branch	✔
23. Based on comprehensive review, a work plan is established and completed to ensure conservation advice or recovery plans are up-to-date for identified high-priority species and ecological communities	<p>Complete: Broad review of recovery planning underway by Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division. Identification and prioritisation (within a work plan) of other taxa such as reptiles, fish, plants, amphibians and invertebrates has been completed.</p>	Protected Species and Communities Branch	✔
24. Database of all recovery teams made publicly available	<p>Partially complete: Public consultation is being undertaken to identify recovery teams who would like to be nationally registered and their details included in a database which will be made publicly available. This will be an ongoing project.</p>	Protected Species and Communities Branch	🟡
25. Australian Government, in consultation with the states and territories, publishes best practice guidelines for recovery team governance	<p>Partially complete: Draft Recovery Team governance "best practice guidelines" have been published and made available for public comment. Nb. Final tracking status yet to be agreed with WHaM</p>	Protected Species and Communities Branch	🟡
26. Australian Government, in consultation with the states and territories, establishes method to allow recovery teams to report annually on progress, with a focus on recovery actions and outcomes	<p>Partially complete: Draft Recovery Team Annual Progress Report – Guidelines have been published and made available for public comment. Nb. Final tracking status yet to be agreed with WHaM</p>	Protected Species and Communities Branch	🟡

Project funding

20 Birds by 2020

Targeted species	Total Aust Govt Funding	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Norfolk Island green parrot	\$476,733	- \$300 000 on rodent control	R4 – 1 project			Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation	Ongoing parks work		
Mallee emu-wren		- \$100 000 pre-translocation studies for the Endangered mallee emu-wren	R4 – 3 projects	2 projects - Victoria (establishing endangered woodlands) - SA (Murray Mallee) – restoring habitat for 4 EPBC listed birds	- Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM regional funding	Project 1.3 – Managing fire regimes with thresholds to save threatened flora and fauna			
Plains wanderer		- \$100 000 Emergency conservation for the plains wanderer (captive population) Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$20 000 for the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park to plant shrubs and conduct surveys	R4 – 2 projects		10 projects			NSW OEH, Victoria threatened species programs	Zoos Vic, Taronga Zoo
Alligator Rivers yellow chat	\$803,465	- \$450 000 Management of fire, weeds and feral animals in priority areas at Kakadu National Park	R4 – 2 projects			Sub-project: 1.1.1. Adaptive management of fire and feral animals to improve conservation of threatened species in Kakadu			

Targeted species	Total Aust Govt Funding	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Night parrot		\$100 000 feral cat grooming trap technology				Project 5.2 Better offsets for threatened species		Qld Government \$400 000	Bush heritage – TSC advocacy
Helmeted honeyeater		Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$50 000 for revegetation at Yellingbo		2x 20 million trees projects	6 projects				Ongoing captive breeding program at ZoosVIC, Birdlife Australia
Norfolk Island boobook owl		\$300 000 on rodent control	R4 – 1 project			Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation	ongoing parks work		
Hooded plover		\$40 000 in NSW \$45 000 in VIC/SA	R4 – 19 projects		9 projects including the Birdlife Australia Great Ocean Road flagship project – protecting the hooded plover	Project 6.3 Identifying better methods for community buy in			
Eastern bristlebird			R4 – 5 projects		3 projects – Including East Gippsland fox control project	Project 3.2 Action evaluation and on-ground monitoring of threatened species	Ongoing management by Parks Australia in Booderee		
Regent honeyeater	\$8,128,228		R1-3-4 projects R4 – 52 projects	R2 – 5 projects	13 NLP projects focused on habitat restoration in woodlands	Project 5.2 Better offsets for threatened species		\$1 million investment from NSW Conservation Trust	Ongoing Birdlife Australia projects
Orange-bellied parrot		\$525 000 emergency response in partnership with Tas Government	R4 – 9 projects	R2 – 1 project	9 projects focussed on habitat restoration	Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation Project 2.2 \$180 000 towards managing sugar gliders		\$525 000 emergency response in partnership with Tas Government	Ongoing support from recovery team and Wildcare volunteer group

Targeted species	Total Aust Govt Funding	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Australasian Bittern		Recent environmental water flows, including water supplied by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, are resulting in a small population boom for bitterns nesting in the Barmah-Millewa forest.	R4 – 41 projects	R2 – 3 projects - SE NSW (Connecting and expanding habitat on crown lands in SE NSW)	6 projects				
Golden-shouldered parrot			R4 – 6 projects						The Oikola Aboriginal Corporation, Bush Heritage and landholders are working together with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to implement actions from the recovery plan.
Eastern curlew		Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$20 000 to restore saltmarsh habitat at flyway sites	R4 – 18 projects	R2 – 1 project 1 project – Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor	2 projects – Protecting the ecological values of the Western Port Ramsar site.	Project 6.3 Identifying better methods for community buy in			The Australia Government plays an important role in building international cooperation to conserve migratory birds and is a member of the East-Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership.

Targeted species	Total Aust Govt Funding	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Malleefowl		TOTAL – over \$4.6 million plus NESP funding	12 Green Army Projects in WA, SA and VIC working to increase connectivity in mallee habitat Over \$2 million	7 20 million projects connecting mallee habitat – Over \$2.6 million	4 NLP projects focussing on rabbit control, weeding and revegetation \$80 000	Project 3.3. \$1.1 million Adaptive management of malleefowl		NSW targeted species	
Cassowary	\$5,437,280	The Australian Government has secured over \$10 million in initiatives supporting the southern cassowary Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$150 000 for the northern population of the cassowary (Cape York and Daintree)	R1-3 - 17 projects R4 - 4 projects	R2 - 3 projects	12 projects focussed on connecting habitat				

20 Mammals by 2020

Priority species	Total Aust Govt funding	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Black-footed rock-wallaby		\$220 000 for West MacDonnell Ranges cat control \$100 000 Grooming Trap \$320 000 restoring Central Australian water places \$1.7 million Western Shield \$2.3 million total	R4 – 3 teams		\$20 000 Kimberly Nykina-Mangla Rangers Protecting BF-RW	2 Projects worth \$2.8 million		WA baiting at Kalbarri NP	Indigenous ranger - Warru enclosure
Brush-tailed rabbit-rat		\$235 000 Groote Eylandt \$50 000 Kakadu fire and weed management (reintroductions planned) \$20,000 responsible pet ownership on the Tiwi Islands \$305 000 total	R4 – 2 teams						Tiwi Islanders and Hugh Davies visite Canberra
Central rock-rat	\$970 000	\$220 000 for West MacDonnell Ranges feral cat control \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$500 000 total				1 Project worth \$467 875		Partnership with NT gov for baiting	
Christmas Island flying-fox		\$500 000 CI cat eradication \$500 000 total	R4 – 1 team			2 projects worth \$1.7 million	Cat eradication Christmas Island		PhD students
Eastern barred bandicoot	\$5,435,234	\$120 000 for guardian dogs \$55 000 for gene widening Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$90 000 to support feral cat trapping and community engagement \$600 000 Mulligan's Flat \$600 000 total	R4 – 16 teams	R1 – 2 project R2 – 5 Projects		3 projects worth \$4.4 million		VIC gov and Zoos Vic co-funding	
Eastern bettong				R2 – 1 Project		2 projects worth \$2.8 million		\$900 000 from ACT government - offset	Private donations campaign

Priority species	Total Aust Govt funding	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Eastern quoll		\$600 000 Mulligan's Flat \$500 000 to kick-start feral cat eradication efforts on Bruny Island Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$90 000 to support feral cat trapping and community engagement \$1.19 million total				1 project worth \$1.2 million			Mt Rothwell and Mulligan's partners Rewilding Australia interest
Gilbert's potoroo	\$1,950,000	\$1.7 million Western Shield Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250,000 to the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group to create one new secure population \$1.95 million total	R4 – 1 team			1 project worth \$128 000		Emergency WA baiting	
Golden bandicoot		\$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250 000 to Martu Traditional Owners to remove feral cats and assist in reintroductions \$1 million total							
Greater bilby	\$5,410,593	\$1.2 million feral free area in Queensland \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$100 000 grooming traps \$1.7 million western shield \$36 363 for bilby festival \$160,885 Bilby Blitz \$3.95 million total	R4 – 20 teams			5 projects worth \$5.1 million Includes work at Martu to protect bilbies from cats			
Kangaroo Island dunnart		\$92 000 for goat eradication \$500 000 to kick-start feral cat eradications on Kangaroo Island \$20,000 for 5 Islands workshop \$612 000 total	R4 – 2 teams			1 project worth \$411 310		KI cat eradication efforts	

Priority species	Total Aust Govt funding	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Leadbeater's possum		Leadbeater's Possum Action Plan		\$100 000 Restoring the Coranderrk Bushland for Victoria's faunal emblems \$1 697 272 Yellingbo and surrounding reserves habitat for endangered faunal species \$99 056 Yellingbo – Habitat restoration for the helmeted honeyeater and leadbeater's possum	2 projects worth \$2.3 million Includes Action Plan projects		VIC Industry Taskforce		
Mahogany Glider	\$1,706,193	\$30 000 Habitat connectivity project Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$50,000 to help landholders and community groups improve habitat \$80 000 total \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250,000 to Martu Traditional Owners to remove feral cats and assist in reintroductions \$1 million total \$140 000 detector dogs \$140 000 total \$235 000 Groote Eylandt \$235 000 total \$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R2 – 1 team R4 – 1 team R2- 1 teams R4 – 1team	\$16 000 Lily Creek habitat protection \$19 600 Insulator Creek Waterway restoration					
Mala							Rabbit blitz at feral free area in Uluru kata Tjuta National Park		AWC Scotia endo:
Mountain pygmy-possum						2 projects worth \$2.0 million			Previous work done expand the gene pool successful
Northern hopping-mouse								NT doing island wide survey	
Numbat				R2 – 1 project	\$19 500 Termite harvesting in Perup Region	4 projects worth \$5.3 million			Perth Zoo wild reintroductions

Priority species	Total Aust Govt funding	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Western quoll		\$50,000 for cat management in Flinders Ranges \$750,000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$800,000 total	R4 – 6 teams			3 projects worth \$4.4 million		Considerable investment from WA and SA governments	FAME investment
Western ringtail possum	\$2,829,425	\$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R4 – 7 teams		\$14,250 Urban Habitat Project				
Woylie		\$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R4 – 4 teams		\$19,960 Wadderin Sanctuary Feral control	1 project worth \$1.6 million			AWC Scotia enclo: Multiple other enclosures

30 Plants by 2020

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Button wrinklewort						ANBG working on genetics research plus seed collection and conservation work		
Central Australian cabbage palm	Threatened Species Summit Project- \$320 000 to NT Government to manage waterholes where cabbage palms are growing	Four projects to manage buffel grass, collect seed and grow in botanic gardens						
Fitzgerald's mulla-mulla			\$1 015 000 – Greening Aust					
Kakadu hibiscus			Largescale revegetation project to improve habitat extent and condition			ANBG and Aust Seed Bank Partnership sent expert collectors this year to Kakadu NP to collect seed		
Magenta lilly pilly		Six teams improving habitat	\$98 300 to Shortland Wetlands Centre- mid north coast, increasing population by 33%			Work underway to protect the plant at its southern limit in Booderee National Park		

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Matchstick banksia					Project 1.3 – improving fire management for threatened flora and fauna – looking at matchstick banksia's germination response to fire	ANBG working with NSW Gov to collect seed and propagate	Target species under NSW Government's Saving Our Species Program	
Mongarlowe mallee								
Morrisby's gum	\$530,198	Three teams – weed control, monitoring and planting complementary species						
Mossman fairy orchid	Fast tracked re-listing from extinct to critically endangered to ensure highest level of protection under EPBC Act							Australian Tropical Herbarium collection of tissue culture for preserving genetics
Ormeau bottle tree	TS Recovery Fund Election Commitment \$20 000 to Friends of the Ormeau Bottle Tree – to collect seed, protect existing trees and control weeds							

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Silver daisy bush		Four teams protecting habitat	\$926 421.82 three grants and two largescale National Service Provider projects habitat , seed collection, reintroductions	One 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant \$18 360 to Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group Inc				
Small purple pea		One team improving habitat				ANBG working on genetics research plus seed collection and conservation work		
Spiny rice flower		Four teams improving habitat	\$75 000 to East Moorabool Landcare Group Inc to improve habitat condition and extent	One 25 th Anniversary Landcare grant – \$20 000 to Western Melbourne Catchments Network for rabbit control at Mt Rothwell				
Vincentia banksia	OTSC working with the TSSC to add to national list					Booderee National Park- growing seedlings to replant into the park	Targeted species under NSW Saving our Species	

PLANT SPECIES WITH NO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACTION AS YET

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Ant plant	\$176,733	1 project						James Cook University and Australian Tropical Herbarium undertaking research on biological interactions with the golden ant
Black grevillea								
Blue top sun orchid								Orchid Conservation Centre, Melbourne Botanic Gardens – propagating for restoration
Bulberin nut								Working with Macadamia industry and QLD govt on updated Recovery Plan for 4 threatened Macadamia species
Caley's grevillea								Bahai' Temple Bushcare- protecting Caley's Grevillea in the temple gardens
Fairy bells								
Fleurieu leek orchid								Orchid Conservation Centre, Melbourne Botanic Gardens – propagating for restoration
Glossy-leafed hammer-orchid								A priority species for DPAW

On ground examples- plants

20 million trees and Green Army – targeted plants

- **Magenta lilly pilly – 20 Million Trees plus four Green Army teams**

One 20 Million Trees project on the mid north coast is collecting magenta lilly pilly seed and growing seedlings to be replanted back into the wild. This project alone will increase the population of the magenta lilly pilly by more than 30%. Green Army teams on the north and south coasts of NSW are also working to protect habitat for the lilly pilly through weeding, fencing and revegetation.

- **Fitzgerald's mulla mulla – 20 Million Trees largescale project**

330 000 trees will be planted as part of a large-scale 20 Million Trees project in Western Australia to improve habitat for the Fitzgerald's mulla-mulla (a beautiful perennial herb) and for the threatened birds and mammals that share its habitat.

- **Silver daisy bush - three 20 Million Trees Projects plus three Green Army teams**

On ground action is well underway for the silver daisy bush, with a project worth \$433 440 funded through the second tranche of the 20 Million Trees Programme's large-scale component, two projects under Round 2 of the Program to the value of \$200 000 and three Green Army teams undertaking recovery actions for the species.

- **Mongarlowe mallee**

Note- no projects funded

I visited the Mongarlowe Mallee at a mine site near Windellema NSW – one of the last sites of the Ice Age Gum that could be older than the Pyramids of Giza.

For this species I will be working closely with landholders and the NSW Government to protect the species, which occurs primarily on private land. Keen to work with the horticulture industry to propagate and sell in nurseries.

- **Ant Plant**

I visited Ant Plant experts from James Cook University in Cairns in September to learn more about this unique species, and even saw it in the wild. Protecting habitat is important and I will be investigating opportunities through the Green Army and 20 Million Trees Programs to protect the plant and its habitat.

TS Commissioner plant projects

I have mobilised **\$355 000** in funding to save **threatened Australian plants** through two projects:

- One will identify genetic gaps in the plant collections safeguarded by botanic gardens to inform future collections that will support national recovery efforts under the Threatened Species Strategy
- The other will review recovery plans and identify processes threatening rare plants in Commonwealth national parks.

BACKPOCKET BRIEF –

GREEN ARMY

SENATE ESTIMATES, October 2016

Key messages and outcomes

- Green Army Projects are taking practical actions to address threatened species through activities such as habitat conservation, pest eradication and flora and fauna surveys.
- Overall, **584 projects** (rounds 1-4) involve an aspect **supporting threatened species outcomes**
- Overall, **over \$100 million** through Green Army **for threatened species outcomes**.
- Community participation associated with Green Army projects on threatened species is positive (examples next page)

Round Four

- In **December 2015** Minister Hunt announced 397 successful projects under **Round Four** of the Green Army.
- Of these, a total of **311 Projects will deliver threatened species outcomes**, including **over 100 that are addressing targeted birds and mammals** under the TS Strategy, and **over 90 that are addressing feral cats**.

Project examples

- Mabi Rainforest Green Army team
 - In September last year I visited the **Wet Tropics** of Queensland to discuss threatened species outcomes, and met with the **Mabi Rainforest Green Army Team**.
 - This fantastic team is working to recover threatened **Mabi Rainforest** (a TEC) which is **habitat for Tree Kangaroos** and threatened species such as the **Queensland Tree Waratah**.
 - Excellent revegetation outcomes, supporting private landholders, working with **Terrain NRM**.
- Bilby project -Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
 - Round 3 project – working with TO's to fence around bilby habitat in the Great Sandy Desert – fencing, fire management, cat management
- Arid Nature Corridor- Arid Recovery SA
 - Plains mouse, burrowing bettong, bilby, western barred bandicoot
 - Teams to undertake feral animal control and habitat improvement works

GREEN ARMY **ROUND FOUR** APPLICATIONS WITH THREATENED SPECIES
OUTCOMES

Species	Number of applications
Swift Parrot	53
Regent Honeyeater	52
Grey-headed Flying-fox	51
Australasian Bittern	41
Koala	40
Spot-tailed Quoll	35
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	27
Southern Brown Bandicoot (Eastern)	26
Growling Grass Frog	25
Australian Painted Snipe	19
Hooded Plover (eastern)	19
Eastern Curlew	18
greater bilby	18
Gouldian finch	17
Malleefowl	17
Downy Wattle	14
Spiked Rice-flower	13
Sydney Pea Bush	12
Superb Parrot	12
Northern Quoll	12
Long-nosed Potoroo (SE mainland)	12
Leafy Greenhood	12
Red Goshawk	11
Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania)	11
Coxen's Fig-Parrot	11
Loggerhead Turtle	11
Green and Golden Bell Frog	10
Dwarf Galaxias	10
Baudin's Black-Cockatoo	10
Orange-bellied Parrot	9
Tasmanian Devil	9
Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	9
Giant Barred Frog	9
Striped Legless Lizard	8
Clear Milkvine	8
Matted Flax-Lily	8
Southern Cassowary	7
Fleay's Frog	7
Clover Glycine	7
Western Ringtail Possum	7
Masked Owl	7

Species	Number of applications
Black-breasted Button-quail	7
Australian Grayling	7
Booroolong Frog	6
Round-leaf Pomaderris	6
Cassowary	6
Golden Shouldered Parrott	6
Spectacled Flying Fox	6
Curlew Sandpiper	6
Buff-breasted Button-quail	6
Murray Cod	6
Hoary Sunray	5
Wedge-tailed Eagle	5
Eastern Bristlebird	5
Macquarie Perch	5
Grassland Earless Dragon	5
Purple Eyebright	5
Spotted-tailed Quoll	4
Southern bell frog	4
Biconvex Paperbark	4
Masked Owl (Tasmanian)	4
Crimson Spider-orchid	4
Dural Land Snail	4
Frankston Spider Orchid	4
Grand Spider Orchid	4
Silver Daisy-bush	4
Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat	4
Magenta Lilly Pilly	4
Purdie's Donkey-orchid	4
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Mt Lofty Ranges)	4
Western Quoll	4
Hale Dwarf Greenhood	4
Jumping jack wattle	4
Three-toed Snake tooth skink	4
Red-lored Whistler	4
Curly Sedge	4
Button Wrinklewort	4
Charmhaven Apple	4
Little Pink Spider-orchid	4
Chalky Wattle	3
Bertya ernestiana	3
Australian Fairy Tern	3
Phillip Island Wheat Grass	3
Metallic sun orchid	3
Corben's Long-eared Bat	3
Bead Glasswort	3

Species	Number of applications
Purple Crowned Fairy Wren	3
Flat back turtle	3
Bush-tailed Rock-wallaby	3
Green Turtle	3
Ravine Orchid	3
Dorrigo Daisy-bush	3
Red Bopple Nut	3
Mallee Emu-wren	3
Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Mainland)	3
Spotted Tree Frog	3
Western Whipbird (eastern)	3
Stiff White Spider-orchid	3
Golden Sun Moth	3
Stuttering Frog	3
Lord Howe Island Woodhen	3
Coloured spider orchid	3
Lowan Phebalium	3
Trout Cod	3
Clematis fawcettii	3
Milky Silkpod	3
Southern Swamp Orchid	3
Hakea maconochieana	3
Southern Tetraria	3
Woylie	3
Three-leaved Bosistoa	2
Latz's Wattle	2
Small Purple-pea	2
Earp's Gum	2
Black-eyed Susan	2
Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat	2
Mary River Cod	2
Monarto mintbush	2
Lamington eyebright	2
Mount Compass Oak-bush	2
Flinders Worm-lizard	2
Mount Compass Swamp Gum	2
Tammar Wallaby	2
Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren	2
Tufted Plumed Featherflower	2
Crested Shrike-tit (northern)	2
Western Swamp Tortoise	2
Native Jute	2
Lake Eacham Rainbowfish	2
New Holland Mouse	2
Southern pipewort	2

Species	Number of applications
Noisy Scrub-bird	2
a fern	2
Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale	2
Arnhem Land Skink	2
Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby	2
Glossy black-cockatoo	2
Osborn's Eyebright	2
Glossy-leafed Hammer-orchid	2
Painted Honeyeater	2
Toadflax	2
Pale Leek-orchid	2
Waddy	2
Partridge Pigeon	2
Dwarf Bee Orchid	2
Arnhem Rock-rat	2
Dwellingup Synaphea	2
Pink Lipped Spider Orchid	2
South-eastern red tailed black cockatoo	2
Pink-tailed Worm-lizard	2
Bassian Thrush (Mt Lofty Ranges)	2
Plains Death Adder	2
Southern Penda	2
Plains wanderer	2
Large-eared Pied Bat	2
Plum Leek-orchid	2
Yellow-Spotted Bell Frog	2
Pretty Heath	2
Fleurieu Leek Orchid	2
Eastern-barred bandicoot	2
Coast Spider Orchid	2
Australian Native Bee	2
Ghost Spider Orchid	2
False Water Rat	2
Swamp Star Flower	2
Feather-Leaved Banksia	2
Tall Donkey Orchid	2
Central Australian Cabbage Palm	2
Tasmanian Chaostola skipper	2
Central North Burrowing Crayfish (CNBC)	2
Thick Billed Grass Wren	2
Kangaroo Island dunnart	2
White beauty spider orchid	2
Red-tailed phascogale	2
Yellow Chat (Alligator Rivers)	2
Regent Parrot (Eastern Subspecies)	2

Species	Number of applications
Undoolya Wattle	2
Rice Flower	2
Wavy-leaved Smokebush	2
Kangaroo Island echidna	2
Western Ground Parrot	2
Short tongued bee	2
Masked Owl (northern)	2
Australian sea-lion	2
Black-eared Miner	2
Slender Andersonia	2
small helmet orchid	2
Maquarie Perch	2
Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby	2
Marlborough Blue Cycad	2
Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat	2
Harrington's Spider-orchid, Pink Spider-orchid	1
Blue Mountain Water Skink	1
Yarra Pygmy Perch	1
Brush sophora	1
collard delma	1
Large-fruit Groundsel	1
Euphrasia bella	1
Brush Tail Rock Wallaby (BTRW)	1
Chuditch, Western Quoll	1
Brush-tailed Bettong	1
Ben Lomond Leek Orchid	1
Forty-spotted Pardalote	1
Collared delma	1
Red Lilly Pilly	1
Angle-stemmed Myrtle	1
Black-footed Tree-rat	1
Keighery's Eleocharis	1
French Island Spider Orchid	1
Yellow swainson-pea	1
Basalt Pepper-cress	1
Star Finch (eastern)	1
Ball Nut	1
Beaked Eremophila	1
Dasyurus geoffroii	1
Newcastle doubletail	1
Rough Shelled Bush Nut	1
Norfolk Island Green Parrot	1
Davies Waxflower	1
Numbat	1
Rusty Rose Walnut	1

Species	Number of applications
Variable Smokebush	1
Sand Grasstree	1
Western barred Bandicoot	1
Sandhill Dunnart	1
False Plumed-Banksia	1
Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider	1
white lipped spider orchid	1
Giant Burrowing Frog	1
Yellow Gnat-orchid	1
Gilbert's Potoroo	1
Broad-leaf Meryta	1
Silver Perch	1
Green and Gold Frog	1
Simson's Stag Beetle	1
Blind Velvet Worm	1
Mahogany Glider	1
Nangetty Grass	1
Slender-billed Thornbill	1
Blue tailed skink	1
Dense Leek-orchid	1
Bomaderry Zieria	1
Dibbler	1
Nightcap Plectranthus	1
Christmas Island emerald dove	1
Norfolk Island Boobook Owl	1
Christmas Island flying-fox	1
Northern Bettong	1
Good's Banksia	1
Barred Galaxias	1
Abbott's booby	1
Onion Cedar	1
Southern Ochrosia	1
Vanderschoors Stag Beetle	1
Dunsborough Burrowing Crayfish	1
Heath Mouse, Heath Rat, Dayang	1
Granite Heath	1
Albatross Mallee	1
Southern Shepherds Purse	1
Illawarra Zieria	1
Grass Conostylis	1
Kamballup Dryandra	1
McDonnell Range Rock-wallaby	1
Cooktown Orchid	1
Christmas Island frigate bird	1
White Flowered Wax Plant	1

Species	Number of applications
Greater Bilby	1
Bilby	1
Spiny Daisy	1
Corybas montanus	1
Spiny Peppercross	1
Yellow Spotted Bell Frog	1
Spiny Rice-flower	1
Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet Tropics)	1
Christmas Island goshawk	1
Purple Copper Butterfly	1
Spotted Galaxias (western subspecies),	1
Lister's gecko	1

- No total provided as some projects address multiple species

BACKPOCKET BRIEF –

20 Million Trees

SENATE ESTIMATES, October 2016

Progress update

- To date the 20 Million Trees Programme has committed **over \$42 million** (GST exclusive) through nearly **160 projects** to deliver more than **12 million trees** that support threatened species (2 example projects at Attachment A below).
- In **March 2016**, the **second tranche of large-scale projects** in the National Service Provider component of the program was announced which included **another 2.5 million trees**. **All ten large-scale projects will provide benefits for threatened species** including the Malleefowl, Regent Honeyeater (targeted birds) and Fitzgerald's Mulla Mulla (targeted plant).
- In **December 2015 Round 2 (grants)** was announced with **63 new projects** providing **outcomes for 73 different threatened species** (listed at Attachment B below).
- This takes the number of projects funded through 20 Million Trees that support EPBC listed **threatened species and communities** to approximately **95%** (including 100% of large scale national service provider projects).
- In Round 2 there are, for example:
 - 10 projects to benefit the **swift parrot**;
 - 5 projects to benefit the **eastern barred bandicoot**; and
 - 5 projects for the **regent honeyeater**.

Summary of 20 Million Trees projects with threatened species outcomes (contributing to the publically announced \$210 million figure)

Stream	Number of projects	Funding committed (GST ex)
Grant Round 1: 2014-15	50	\$3,940,936
West Melbourne	1	\$5,000,000
Cumberland Corridors Grants Round	13	\$4,565,441
National Service Provider - Tranche 1	22	\$16,320,513
Grant Round 2: 2015-16	63	\$4,903,078
National Service Provider - Tranche 2	10	\$7,286,382
Total	159	\$42,016,349

20 MILLION TREES – THREATENED SPECIES EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Project: **Yellingbo and surrounding reserves**

\$1.7m Funded through the 20MT Large scale national service provider component this project is planting **650,000 trees** Benefitting both the critically endangered **Helmeted Honeyeater** and **Leadbeater's Possum** (lowland population). Friends Groups and Greening Australia (GA) working with multiple partners to increase the extent of habitat by 100ha.

(they also received a \$100k grant through round 1 for additional reveg at Yellingbo)

Project: **Avon River Basin project - Wheatbelt NRM**

Fantastic project announced in 20MT Round 2 grants – **\$100,000** – planting **40,000 trees!** will be **engaging landholders** to reduce threats and secure habitat for over **25 EPBC** listed species and communities (including **Numbat, Chuditch, Malleefowl, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Red-tailed Phascogale** and **Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider**) revegetating 50 hectares.

Threatened species targeted through 20 Million Trees Round Two projects

Species	Number of projects
Koala	10
Swift Parrot	10
Spotted-tail Quoll	7
Eastern barred bandicoot	5
Grey-headed Flying-fox	5
Regent Honeyeater	5
Tasmanian devil	5
Giant barred frog	4
Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmania)	4
Australasian Bittern	3
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	3
Growling Grass Frog	3
Malleefowl	3
Southern Cassowary	3
Striped Legless Lizard	3
Black-breasted Button-quail	2
Coxen's Fig-Parrot	2
Green and Golden Bell Frog	2
Mary River Cod	2
Painted Honeyeater	2
Shiny-leaved Condoo	2
Silver Daisy Bush	2
Superb parrot	2
Tiger Quoll	2
Albert's Lyrebird	1
Angle-stemmed Myrtle	1
Australian Lace-lid	1
Australian lungfish	1
Australian Painted Snipe	1
Bacon Wood	1
Bathurst Copper Butterfly	1
Black-eared Miner	1
Black-footed tree-rat	1
Black-throated Finch	1
Booroolong Frog	1
Chuditch	1
Common Mistfrog	1
Corangamite Water Skink	1
Curlew Sandpiper	1
Eastern Bettong	1
Eastern Curlew	1

Species	Number of projects
Eastern Dwarf Galaxias	1
Forty Spotted Pardalote	1
Giant Gippsland Earthworm	1
Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat	1
Latham's Snipe	1
Leafy Greenhood	1
Littlejohn's Tree Frog	1
Long-nosed Potoroo	1
Magenta Lilly Pilly	1
Mary River Turtle	1
Menzel's Wattle	1
Mount Compass Oak Bush	1
Mount Compass Swamp Gum	1
Mt Stuart Ironbark	1
Murray Cod	1
Northern Quoll	1
Numbat	1
Orange-bellied Parrot	1
Red-lored Whistler	1
Red-tailed Phascogale	1
Resin Wattle	1
Smooth-shelled Macadamia	1
Southern Bell Frog	1
Southern Brown Bandicoot	1
Southern Penda	1
Spalding Blown Grass	1
Spiller's Wattle	1
Spotted-tail Quoll (Tasmanian population)	1
Strzelecki Gum	1
Trailing Hopbush	1
White-Throated snapping turtle	1
Yellow Spotted Bell Frog	1

Project examples - detailed

App ID	Project Title	Project Description	Applicant Name	Total (GST inc)	State
20MT-375	Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor - Revegetation for Local Conservation Outcomes	<p>The project will achieve local conservation outcomes in the Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor (TCRC), which has EPBC listed ecological communities and species including: 'critically endangered' Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia, the 'endangered' Mary River Cod and the 'vulnerable' shrub, Quassia.</p> <p>This will be achieved through community involvement in 'best practice' riparian restoration as demonstrated through a large scale and long term revegetation project and field days.</p> <p>The project provides public benefit through protection, increased resilience and connectivity of riparian vegetation, reducing threats to EPBC listed ecosystems and species, and improved water quality entering the Mary estuaries and GSS Ramsar wetland.</p>	BURNETT MARY REGIONAL GROUP FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LTD	\$108,836.20	QLD
20MT-124	Eaglehawk Waterhole - Woodland restoration for nationally threatened species	<p>Eaglehawk Waterhole is a 684 ha former farm, purchased by Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) in late 2013, near the western end of the Little Desert NP. The property includes 510 ha of previously grazed and partly cleared woodland habitat & is a key feeding & roosting site for the nationally endangered SE Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (RTBC).</p> <p>This project will result in the planting & re-creation of a 70 ha woodland habitat corridor across on the property, with an emphasis on food tree species for the RTBC (Brown Stringybark & Buloke) & associated threatened or rare understorey plants.</p> <p>The plants will be grown in the NGT operated community nursery in Mount Gambier, using seed collected from the property with the support of community volunteers.</p>	THE TRUSTEE FOR NATURE GLENELG TRUST	\$107,250.00	SA
20MT-136	Yellingbo-Habitat Restoration for Helmeted Honeyeater & Leadbeaters Possum	<p>Increased habitat availability and improved vegetation condition are urgently required to support remaining populations of the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater and endangered Leadbeater's Possum. Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater (FOHH) and Greening Australia (GA) will improve habitat condition and food availability for these EPBC-listed species across 4.4ha through the delivery of 30,387 plants. We will create 1 km of vegetation corridors to re-connect isolated populations of these species. The restoration program will work together with five partner organisations, and approximately 1000 volunteers over 3 years to deliver ecological outcomes underpinned by explicit habitat modelling and best-practise restoration science.</p>	FRIENDS OF THE HELMETED HONEYEATER INC	\$108,962.33	VIC

App ID	Project Title	Project Description	Applicant Name	Total (GST inc)	State
20MT-256	Yanget Station - Protecting Threatened Flora	<p>This Project aims to re-establish 15 ha of native vegetation in the Northern Agricultural Zone of Western Australia, in a local catchment area which has <2% of vegetation remaining. This revegetation will improve the extent and connectivity of habitat for three threatened flora species on Yanget Station, near Geraldton in Western Australia. This includes connecting together two small sub-populations of the Critically Endangered <i>Grevillea bracteosa</i> subsp. <i>howatharra</i>, and improving an area of potential habitat for the Endangered <i>Chorizema humile</i> and <i>Wurmbea tubulosa</i>. This will also include restoring riparian vegetation along a degraded creekline.</p>	DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE	\$43,560.00	WA

BACKPOCKET BRIEF –

SPECIES SPECIFIC – BIRDS, MAMMALS AND PLANTS

SENATE ESTIMATES, February 2017

Key messages

- **24 targeted mammals and birds** were announced at the Threatened Species Summit on 16 July 2015, including four emergency intervention species (Leadbeater's possum, central rock-rat, orange-bellied parrot and western ground parrot.)
- **16 targeted mammals and birds** were announced on 22 January 2016, including an additional initiative announced for the Christmas Island Frigatebird.
- **30 targeted plant species** were announced on 7 September 2016 to be targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy.
- These species were chosen after consideration against the Principles for Prioritisation in the Threatened Species Strategy and through extensive consultation with my advisory group, scientific experts, state and territory governments and conservation organisations.
- Planning underway on actions for all identified mammals and birds (see **section 1, tab D**)
- **Emergency intervention species** - action underway
 - Orange Bellied Parrot - \$525 000 – Emergency recovery actions
 - Western Ground Parrot - \$40 000 captive population, workshop \$5 000 plus Western Shield project
 - Leadbeater's possum – Leadbeater's possum Action Plan (See **tab LPB**)
 - Total \$2.5 million in funding
 - \$1.8 million for 790 000 trees under 20 Million Trees
 - \$700 000 under NESP for science-based research
 - Updated recovery plan
 - Central Rock rat - \$220 000 for West MacDonnell Ranges feral cat control

BIRDS

On-ground examples – birds

- In Victoria, the **critically endangered helmeted honeyeater** has seen **its population more than double** thanks to a project run by Zoos Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the dedicated volunteers at Friends of the helmeted honeyeater. The project is supplemented with a **\$3 million Government investment** to rehabilitate and expand its habitat. As few as 50 helmeted honeyeaters survived in the wild in 2011, but today there are over 180. The **Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater** received **\$50 000 through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund** to increase the helmeted honeyeater habitat revegetation.
- Numbers of the endangered **green parrot** **continue to increase** with **numbers now estimated to be around 350-400**, after dropping to as low as 50-100 in 2013. So far in 2016, 77 chicks (including 35 females) have been successfully fledged, compared to 61 chicks (29 females) in the previous year. The **Australian Government has contributed \$300 000** to assist **Parks Australia rangers** to eradicate rodents from the island and support the recovery of the green parrot. Rangers have established an impressive network of **1800 rat baits** in the national park to tackle this problem. In addition **80 nest sites have been established** in tree trunks and have been used extensively by the parrots. The rangers are also planning to **establish a second population** of around 30 green parrots on nearby Phillip Island, which is free of feral animals.
- The **western ground parrot – workshop** took place on 30 March 2016. This was in response to recent extensive bushfires which destroyed around 90% of known occupied habitat, increasing the risk of extinction. The workshop identified and prioritised emergency interventions for the species by bringing together experts to provide advice for emergency actions. **The Australian Government contributed \$5 000 towards the workshop.**
- The Minister announced **Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds on 8 April 2016**. This plan covers 35 species of shorebirds that travel between Asia and Australia, including the critically endangered **eastern curlew**. This plan provides the foundation for our engagement in various international forums such as the convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.
- The Minister announced \$45 105 in May 2016 for **Birdlife Australia** to implement the project: **The next step in Hooded Plover recovery: Improving chick survival**. The proposed project will coordinate action across one quarter of the national hooded plover population and will significantly improve the number of recovery participants, and their capacity to continue on-ground delivery of recovery efforts.
- Save the **Orange-bellied Parrot** Program - \$525 000. **Implementation of critical recovery actions in Tasmania** with DPIPWE. Progress on disease risk management, wild release capability and the governance of the recovery activities.

- **Regent Honeyeater** habitat restoration – **12 National Landcare Programmes in place** across Victoria and NSW
- **Mallee emu-wren** pre-translocation study – \$100 000. **A second, previously unknown population was found in Wyperfeld National Park in 2015.** The species is now known to occur in three Victorian National Parks. This success works towards meeting the recovery objective of having five populations, reducing the risk of extinction in the event of a fire. There are **three National Landcare Programmes in place** focussing on habitat restoration.
- Emergency conservation actions for the **Plains-Wanderer** - \$100 000. **Established a captive insurance population at Taronga Zoo. Ten National Landcare Programmes** focussing on habitat restoration and planting as well as improving habitat quality (weeding, rabbit control).

MAMMALS

On ground examples - mammals

- **Mountain pygmy-possum** – \$140 000 **Detector dogs, Dottie and Maggie, protecting the endangered mountain pygmy-possum and konoom.** Dogs and handlers are on the ground and helping to improve trapping practices in Kosciuszko National Park and surrounds. Since the dogs have been working, they have **caught and euthanised 92 cats and 139 foxes.** Seeing **more juvenile mountain pygmy-possums and more bandicoots.**
- **Central rock-rat** – In August, with support from a **\$220 000 investment** from the National Landcare Programme, **thousands of emergency Eradicat baits were distributed,** broad-scale, across the endangered central rock-rat's core habitat. This was done in partnership with the Northern Territory Government and approved by the APVMA. This baiting will **reduce the number of feral cats** and help avoid the rock rat's extinction. It will also support our future plans to **translocate** some of the rock-rats to **Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary** when it is completed in the Northern Territory. The Threatened Species Strategy is **investing \$750 000** with Australian Wildlife Conservancy in this sanctuary.
- **Bilby Festival** - \$36 363 to share knowledge on Indigenous land management and highlight the significance of Indigenous lands for the conservation of the Bilby (80% of bilbies on Indigenous lands).
- **Western quoll** - \$50 000 to assist with the **reintroduction of western quolls back to the Flinders Ranges.** Between 2014 and 2016, **93 wild quolls were released** to the Flinders Ranges from Western Australia. Advised that there **are around 160 quolls back in the Flinders Ranges** for the first time in 130 years and they are breeding well.
- **Eastern barred bandicoot** - \$120 000 for **Guardian dogs to protect the species in the wild. Two maramma puppies, Banjo and Mackinnon, began training in September last year.** Firstly developing guardian instincts with sheep and being introduced to bandicoot smells. **A further 5 new dogs have recently begun training.**
- **Mahogany glider** – Green Army project in QLD working with farmers to repair riparian habitat and minimise sediment flowing into reef. Good for farmers, good for gliders and good for reef (you visited)

Leadbeater's possum

- Emergency intervention species in Strategy and the Minister committed to an Action Plan for the species.
- The Action Plan outlines the Government's strategy to support the recovery of the Leadbeater's possum and commits:
 - more than \$700 000 to critical research;
 - \$1.8 million to practical on-ground action and 790 000 trees under 20 Million Trees; and
 - to review and update the recovery plan for the possum by September 2016.

- Chaired two meetings with broader stakeholder group in October and December and held Indigenous consultation meeting in February.
- Department, DEWLP, John Woinarski involved in drafting the Recovery Plan.
- The recovery plan was made available for a three month public comment period in February and the Department received over 3700 submissions were received from industry, scientists and the general public.
- The Department is considering each submission as quickly as possible and then the plan will be provided to the Minister of the Environment and Energy for finalisation.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

- Through Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) across Australia, the Australian Government recognises the need to balance the environmental, social and economic objectives for native forest management.
- I understand that the Australian Government continues to work with the Victorian Government to ensure that the obligations and commitments made under this RFA are honoured. The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for the Australian Government on RFAs.
- My role is to find practical on-ground solutions to help secure a future for threatened species.
- Still differing views among non-government organisations, the scientific community, conservation managers and government agencies about next steps.

2015	
16 July	Leadbeater's possum announced as emergency intervention species
31 August	Leadbeater's possum Action Plan launched
21 October	1 st Stakeholder Consultation meeting
11 December	2 nd Stakeholder Consultation meeting
2016	
1 February	Indigenous Stakeholder meeting
1-5 February	Whole of Government consultation on plan
19 Feb – 20 May	Public Consultation period
2016-2017	3700 public submissions received and being considered

PLANTS

Key messages

- Minister Frydenberg has announced the list of 30 targeted plant species to have improved population trajectories by 2020 (on Threatened Species Day 7 September 2016).
- Stakeholders consultation on the targeted plants included state and territory governments, Parks Australia, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, state and territory botanic gardens, the Australian Seed Bank Partnership, scientists from the National Environmental Science Programme and plant specialists from the broader community.
- Very excited about the targeted plants- some amazing species that we will protect including banksias, gumtrees and wattles – some of Australia's iconic species.
- We are aiming to deliver these targets well and exceed them where possible (for example TEC sites).
- We expect to be able to deliver much of the plant target through the Green Army and 20 Million Trees Programmes, in addition to partnerships with states, territories and the private sector.
- The Australian Seed Bank Partnership will be critical for delivering seed banking targets. Currently, almost half of Australia's EPBC listed species are held in conservation seed banks across Australia.
- **List of 30 plants – below**

Target breakdown

- 30 targeted plant species to improve trajectories
- Recovery actions at 60 threatened ecological community sites
- 100% insurance of EPBC listed plants (ambitious – aware that some species including some rainforest species cannot be stored using conventional techniques. For these we can focus on living collections eg in botanic gardens and protecting existing populations).

On ground examples- plants

20 million trees and Green Army – targeted plants

- **Magenta lilly pilli – 20 Million Trees plus four Green Army teams**

One 20 Million Trees project on the mid north coast is collecting magenta lilly pilli seed and growing seedlings to be replanted back into the wild. This project alone will increase the population of the magenta lilly pilli by more than 30%. Green Army teams on the north and south coasts of NSW are also working to protect habitat for the lilly pilli through weeding, fencing and revegetation.

- **Fitzgerald's mulla mulla – 20 Million Trees largescale project**

330 000 trees will be planted as part of a large-scale 20 Million Trees project in Western Australia to improve habitat for the Fitzgerald's mulla-mulla (a beautiful perennial herb) and for the threatened birds and mammals that share its habitat.

- **Silver daisy bush - three 20 Million Trees Projects plus three Green Army teams**

On ground action is well underway for the silver daisy bush, with a project worth \$433 440 funded through the second tranche of the 20 Million Trees Programme's large-scale component, two projects under Round 2 of the Program to the value of \$200 000 and three Green Army teams undertaking recovery actions for the species.

- **Mongarlowe mallee**

Note- no projects funded

I visited the Mongarlowe Mallee at a mine site near Windellema NSW – one of the last sites of the Ice Age Gum that could be older than the Pyramids of Giza.

For this species I will be working closely with landholders and the NSW Government to protect the species, which occurs primarily on private land. Keen to work with the horticulture industry to propagate and sell in nurseries.

- **Ant Plant**

I visited Ant Plant experts from James Cook University in Cairns in September to learn more about this unique species, and even saw it in the wild. Protecting habitat is important and I will be investigating opportunities through the Green Army and 20 Million Trees Programs to protect the plant and its habitat.

TS Commissioner plant projects

I have mobilised **\$355 000** in funding to save **threatened Australian plants** through two projects:

- One will identify genetic gaps in the plant collections safeguarded by botanic gardens to inform future collections that will support national recovery efforts under the Threatened Species Strategy
- The other will review recovery plans and identify processes threatening rare plants in Commonwealth national parks.

LEADBEATER'S POSSUM

UPLISTING

- Uplisted from Endangered to Critically Endangered on 22 April 2015, effective 2 May 2015.
- The uplisting follows assessment of new information provided by public nomination to up-list Leadbeater's possum (LBP) to the critically endangered category.
- The uplisting means that the LBP will now receive the highest level of protection under national environment law.
- As part of the assessment, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee consulted experts and invited interested organisations and the wider community to provide comment during a public consultation process.
- The Committee found that Leadbeater's possum is eligible for inclusion in the critically endangered category of the list because, based on a decline in area of occupancy, extent of occurrence and quality of habitat, the reduction in numbers has been and is projected to be very severe. The species is subject to a number of threats, primarily loss of habitat through fire, loss of habitat through timber harvesting, and loss of habitat quality in regrowth forest.

ABOUT LBP

- Victorian faunal emblem. Badly affected by Black Saturday Fires. s22
- Mammal Action Plan estimate of 40% decline since 2009.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT

- Leadbeater's are a species I am concerned about - working with all the relevant stakeholders. s22
- Emergency intervention species in Strategy and the Minister committed to an Action Plan for the species.
- The Action Plan outlines the Government's strategy to support the recovery of the Leadbeater's possum and commits:
 - more than \$700 000 to critical research through NESP;
 - \$1.8 million to practical on-ground action and 790 000 trees under 20 Million Trees; and
 - : \$100,000 (GST exclusive) to Zoos Victoria (Zoological Parks and Gardens Board) for the *Restoring the Coranderrk Bushland for Victoria's Faunal Emblems* Project to plant 112,000 trees at Coranderrk Bushland Reserve which will provide breeding populations of these species with suitable habitat to help their recovery.
 - : \$99,056.66 (GST exclusive) to Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc for the 'Yellingbo- Habitat Restoration for Helmeted Honeyeater & Leadbeaters Possum'

Project, to deliver more than 30,000 plants over 4.4 hectares to connect important habitat through best practice restoration science.

: \$1,697,272 (GST exclusive) towards the project *Yellingbo and surrounding reserves habitat for endangered faunal species*. Project will plant 650,000 trees and shrubs to restore high quality foraging and nesting habitat that supports >150 self-supporting individuals of Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum in priority areas of the floodplain of Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

- to review and update the recovery plan for the possum by September 2016.

- Chaired two meetings with broader stakeholder group in October and December and held Indigenous consultation meeting in February.
- Department, DEWLP, John Woinarski involved in drafting the Recovery Plan.
- The recovery plan was made available for a three month public comment period in February and the Department received over 3,700 submissions were received from industry, scientists and the general public.
- The draft recovery plan is under consideration by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, prior to the plan being provided to the Minister of the Environment and Energy for finalisation. It is anticipated that the Recovery Plan will be finalised this year.

TIMEFRAMES

2015	
16 July	Leadbeater's possum announced as emergency intervention species
31 August	Leadbeater's possum Action Plan launched
21 October	1 st Stakeholder Consultation meeting
11 December	2 nd Stakeholder Consultation meeting
2016	
1 February	Indigenous Stakeholder meeting
1-5 February	Whole of Government consultation on plan
19 Feb – 20 May	Public Consultation period – 3700 submissions
31 August	Updated recovery plan due – <u>did not meet</u>
Now	Draft recovery plan is under consideration by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee
	There is no statutory timeframe that the Minister must adhere to when making a decision on the plan.

GREAT FORESTS NATIONAL PARK

- Establishing a National Park in Victoria's Central Highlands is a matter for the Victorian State Government. Leave that decision to the Victorian government.
- As the Threatened Species Commissioner, talk to lots of different stakeholders about actions for threatened species. People have spoken to me about the Great Forests National Park proposal; this is a matter for the Victorian state government.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

- Through Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) across Australia, the Australian Government recognises the need to balance the environmental, social and economic objectives for native forest management.
- I understand that the Australian Government continues to work with the Victorian Government to ensure that the obligations and commitments made under this RFA are honoured. The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for the Australian Government on RFAs.
- My role is to find practical on ground actions that are likely to help secure the future of threatened species.
- Still differing views among non-government organisations, the scientific community, conservation managers and government agencies about next steps.

BACKPOCKET BRIEF –
SPECIES SPECIFIC (HIGH PROFILE)

SENATE ESTIMATES, October 2016

SPECIES NOT INCLUDED IN STRATEGY

- The Strategy's 2015/16 Action Plan is the first iteration of the new national approach. The Government has committed to review it annually and update its content where appropriate.
- Wide consultation informed the initial key groups - plants, mammals, and birds. Progress on these will create momentum and build the public profile of Australia's threatened species.
- Species not listed as being targeted in the Strategy will still benefit from the government's new approach to threatened species through activities undertaken under the four key action areas – improving habitat, safe havens, tackling feral cats and emergency interventions.
- Targeted species were chosen for their umbrella benefit to other species. Actions undertaken that protect the targeted species will also benefit a range of species that use the same habitat. For example action taken to protect the cassowary, swift parrot, and regent honeyeater will benefit a range of co-existing plant and animal species.
- In addition, tackling feral cats will protect a total of 124 threatened species.

SPECIES SPECIFIC BRIEFS TO FOLLOW:

1. Carnaby's black cockatoo (Funding breakdown at **sub-section 16**)
2. Swift parrot (Funding breakdown at **sub-section 16**)
3. Koala (WHAM brief at **sub-section 20**)
4. Tasmanian devil
5. Dugong
6. Spotted-tailed quoll
7. Bramble cay melomys
8. Greater glider
9. Giant freshwater crayfish
10. Christmas Island flying-fox

CARNABY'S COCKATOO

- EPBC Status: Endangered
- Bird Action Plan: Endangered
- Main threat:
 - Habitat loss in breeding and foraging habitat
- Species was not selected as a target in the Threatened Species Strategy as it ranked less highly on risk of extinction. Current total population is estimated at 40,000, while the south-eastern red-tailed black cockatoo is estimated at just 1000 birds.
- Carnaby's cockatoo is still a key priority for the Australian Government, which is currently contributing **over \$10.8 million** through the 20 Million Trees, Green Army and National Landcare Programmes. This is in addition to projects delivered by NRM regions, supported by the National Landcare Programme's regional delivery stream.
- One of the key actions in the Recovery Plan for Carnaby's cockatoo is to protect and manage important habitat. This is being achieved through our programs which are helping to create, improve, revegetate and rehabilitate critical habitat.
 - As an example, one project in the northern Swan Coastal Plain Important Bird Area (IBA) is creating priority foraging habitat and improving connectivity between the Gnangara/Yeal Reserves and existing remnant vegetation pockets on private land.
 - In addition, there are multiple projects being funded through the National Landcare Programme's regional funding (Perth Region NRM) that are helping to protect Carnaby's cockatoo.
 - The *Phytophthora Dieback management in Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo habitat* project successfully managed **82.6 ha of critical habitat** for dieback impacts in 2015.
- For examples of other on-the-ground action and funding see **Attachment 4A**.

CARNABY'S COCKATOO

Round	Program	Unique ID	Project Title	Description	State	Total
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-301	River Reconnection: The Cunjardine and Mortlock Rivers	<p>The Cunjardine River is a key tributary of the Mortlock River and Avon-Swan River system of high conservation value: Identified as a priority waterway (Priority Tributaries of the Avon River Basin, WA Dept. of Water)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Priority Ecological Community (PEC- WA Department of Parks and Wildlife classification) - 6 threatened fauna and 27 threatened or priority plant species. <p>Historic land clearing has caused loss of habitat, fragmented connectivity (<10%) and associated land degradation issues threatening ecological and productivity assets. This project guided by locally developed catchment plans will revegetate a minimum of 40Ha of prioritised riparian and floodplain land using local plant species matched to soils and landscape conditions.</p>	WA	\$ 99,435.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-77	Fancote Park Downstream - Riparian Habitat Corridor	<p>This Project aims to establish riparian vegetation communities over 1.4Ha of the Canning River near Fancote Park, Kelmscott in the south eastern metropolitan region of Perth WA. The project will create and improve habitat and river water quality for native birds, mammals, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, flora and fungi through installation of trees, shrubs, herbs, sedges and rushes and removal of weeds. The local community will play a strong role in implementing the landcare activities which the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG) will facilitate. This project will continue successful revegetation of the river through this area and abuts previous projects on the Canning River conducted by AGLG over the last 18 years.</p>	WA	\$ 91,500.00

20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-83	Middle Canning River - habitat corridor restoration	<p>This project will improve condition and extent of a native vegetation corridor along a section of the Canning River - an important River in the south eastern suburbs of Perth WA. The project will extend on previous restoration works in this urban corridor to improve the existing network of reserves. It will also a) increase ecosystem resilience by improving urban habitat quality and quantity, b) provide habitat for local fauna (fishes, crayfish, frogs, birds and small mammals) and c) help communities connect with their environment by involving local residents and schools in the restoration activities.</p>	WA	\$ 58,500.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-176	Increasing breeding habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in the Moore Catchment	<p>Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) are endemic to WA but are rapidly in decline with total population estimates to be less than 60,000. The Moore River Catchment has 7 of the 23 designated Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that support Carnaby's. Unfortunately past and continuing clearing of Carnaby's breeding and forage habitat is threatening their future survival.</p> <p>This project aims to increase Carnaby's Black Cockatoo numbers through increasing and connecting breeding and priority forage habitat using mixed native trees and understory. Planting will take place on both private and public land, and include engaging a local Working on Country Yued planting team.</p>	WA	\$ 69,575.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-59	Mid West Estuaries - Creating Corridors for Wildlife	<p>The Chapman River and Greenough River estuaries in the Geraldton area are included in one of only thirty four national biodiversity hotspots that are internationally recognised. The estuaries are located in the urban/peri-urban landscape of Geraldton and are under significant threat. The City works in partnership with community to improve the extent, connectivity and condition of riparian vegetation of the estuaries. The estuaries support temperate coastal saltmarsh communities (TEC) which provides habitat for birds, including migratory species listed under EPBC Act. This 20 Million Trees project will enable project partners to strategically restore a further 78 hectares of the river corridors to result in urban biodiversity outcomes.</p>	WA	\$ 59,500.00

20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-143	Revegetation of Priority Corridors and Bushland in Perth's Eastern Region	<p>Precedence is given to revegetating a priority north-south corridor in the City of Swan and a wildlife corridor for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos in the Shire of Mundaring. The project reconnects high value remnant vegetation identified in the National Wildlife Corridors Plan. Direct seeding and planting maintains high ecological values of the sites.</p> <p>A partnership with a local Aboriginal group has been established to revegetate a site with native trees and understorey species, to connect an adjacent Bush Forever site in Kensington Bushland.</p> <p>The project revegetates wetlands of significance frequented by endangered migratory bird populations in the City of Bayswater. South Perth sites will be revegetated for landscape resilience.</p>	WA	\$ 100,000.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-111	Upper Canning and Wungong Catchment Restoration Plan	<p>This project will target sections of two significant tributaries to the Wungong and Canning Catchments within the City of Armadale - Neerigen Brook and Ranford Stream. Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG) will work with Primary School students and local residents to eradicate Morning Glory vine and other invasive weeds from the Neerigen Brook site, and follow up with planting of local native species of flora to revegetate the site. The AGLG will partner with local residents to eradicate <i>Watsonia</i> from sections of quality remnant bushland at Ranford Stream and install local native plant species into the highly eroded riparian zones that require stabilisation.</p>	WA	\$ 20,000.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-569	Ravensthorpe - Revegetation and Community Awareness Project	<p>This project will use the local NRM group RAIN as the central coordinating body to undertake revegetation works in Ravensthorpe Shire and surrounds. Recent surveys of the RAIN membership base indicate that there is a strong interest in revegetation works. Reasons are varied and include; for wind breaks, biodiversity (connecting corridors), improving soil health and salinity. Two 'Native Revegetation' workshops will be delivered - outlining species selection, site preparation & planting methods, pests & disease. There will be a demonstration of the Chatfield Tree Planter at each event. Planting guidelines will be disseminated to the public through media. By educating landholders, RAIN hopes to increase the success of revegetation works.</p>	WA	\$ 20,000.00

25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-483	Eveline Reserve Ecological Community Restoration Project	This project will raise awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity, especially the Claypans of the Swan Coastal Plain, a threatened ecological community in urban area of the eastern Swan Coastal Plain. Mapping and surveys will be undertaken to inform development of a 5 year management plan for the Eveline Reserve. Two hectares of bushland will be weeded and treated areas will be direct seeded with appropriate local provenance seed. Community awareness and engagement will occur through events such as a wildflower walk and weeding workshop, establishing signage, and organising partner collaboration events with Midland Polytechnic and La Salle College.	WA	\$ 18,500.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-101	Sutherlands Park - Bush Forever Site 125 Revegetation	This project will address the threat posed by weed incursion and localised disturbance to the condition of Bush Forever Site 125 and will improve its condition and ecological integrity. The project will undertake weed control with the assistance of certified contractors and through community planting days will revegetate degraded areas to encourage establishment of a multi-storey vegetation structure. Activities will reduce the impact of weeds, reduce fire risks and increase the resilience and integrity of the area.	WA	\$ 17,500.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-363	Connecting the Corridor in Longbridge Gully	This project will link damaged private land areas of remnant vegetation in the Chittering Valley of WA. Specifically, the project will target revegetation between Bindoon Defence Training Area and Boonaning Nature Reserve (area known as Longbridge Gully) to improve the native floral biodiversity and to restore and protect habitats for native fauna. Two local landowners will be provided training to perform the project work and then the local community will be engaged to showcase the benefits of their work.	WA	\$ 10,580.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-148	Gingin Cemetery - Improving Biodiversity and Protecting the Remnant Bushland	This project will implement a program of weed and rubbish removal and replanting of native vegetation to facilitate a buffer for existing remnant native vegetation in and around the public Gingin Cemetery in WA. Additionally, this project will help restore regrowth of Kangaroo Paws and provide roosting habitats for the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (a threatened species of birds in the region). Local school and landcare groups will be engaged to participate in this project.	WA	\$ 7,417.50

20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-33	Increasing forage habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in Swan Coastal Plain IBA	Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (<i>Calyptrorhynchus latirostris</i>) are endemic to WA but are rapidly in decline with total population estimates to be less than 60,000. The Northern Swan Coastal Plain Important Bird Area (IBA) supports up to 15,000 Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo. Unfortunately past and continuing clearing of Carnaby's forage habitat is threatening their future survival. This project aims to increase Carnaby's Black Cockatoo numbers through the creation of priority forage habitat using mixed native trees and understorey. Connectivity will be improved between the Gnangara/Jeal Reserves and existing remnant vegetation pockets on private land.	WA	\$ 59,530.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-10	Conservation of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in Moora's Important Bird Area	This project will increase Carnaby's Black Cockatoo numbers through the creation of forage/ breeding habitat via revegetation using native species and placement of artificial nesting hollows around Moora. Community awareness events will be conducted to increase active participation in protecting this endangered bird species.	WA	\$ 19,470.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-236	Lodge Road Peninsula - Riparian Stabilisation and Biodiversity Enhancement	This project will enhance & protect the biodiversity of the 2.6 Klm riparian zone between Bridgetown and Boyup Brook via the planting of a significant mixed sedge understorey to complement the existing tree and shrub layers. The local provenance & locally sourced indigenous sedge species will stabilise riparian banks & floodplains, reduce soil & water erosion and provide valuable sediment & nutrient stripping functions whilst also increasing habitat diversity.	WA	\$ 8,000.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-134	Strategic Control of WoNS in the Capes Region of Western Australia	The project will control known populations of Weeds of National Significance (Asparagus spp., Genista spp., Madiera Vine and Blackberry) at 20 key sites in the Capes region of WA. The project aims to protect this portion of the internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot in the south west of WA through strategic containment and control, using volunteers who will work in partnership with commercial weed contractors. The project builds on previous work funded by the Australian Government, to identify emerging populations of WoNS and develop control plans for these species, and will assist in implementing key actions contained in the Capes Regional Environmental Weed Strategy currently being prepared by the Cape to Cape Catchments Group.	WA	\$ 20,000.00

20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-319	Lake Warden Catchment: connecting landscapes by reverting farmland back to bush	<p>This project will re-establish 10,000 trees & 16,000 understorey species over 20 ha of farmland in the Lake Warden catchment. It links past revegetation projects across the landscape in a continued effort by the land manager to implement natural resource management activities, as part of their long term property management plan. It will create habitats for fauna such as the Hooded Plover, create a vegetation corridor between properties, & increase water use in the landscape to reduce the flooding of the Lake Warden Ramsar site. The site was prioritised over others due also to its proximity to identified threatened species such as the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, & because of the commitment of the land managers to real & lasting improvements.</p>	WA	\$ 59,644.37
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-181	Wagin/Woodanilling – Linking the Natural Landscape for a Resilient Catchment.	<p>This project will protect & improve connectivity of remnant & riparian vegetation across the catchment, with strategic on-ground works to enhance ecosystem function. These identified zones are crucial for the movement of species to keep within their adaptive parameters given climate change impacts. This project will protect, enhance & revegetate 225ha of remnant & riparian vegetation, & plant 79,250 mixed native tube-stock seedlings. As less than 15% of remnant vegetation remains, these vegetation corridors are essential for wildlife movement as current remnant vegetation is becoming isolated, degraded & stressed. This project improves ecosystem resilience in the catchment & builds on past linkages.</p>	WA	\$ 99,044.50
Total: 18 projects						\$838,196.37
43 Green Army Projects						\$ 9,995,453.75
Total investment						\$10,833,650.12

Background

- EPBC Status: Critically Endangered
- TARGETED SPECIES IN THE THREATENED SPECIES STRATEGY
- Population size: 2000 in the Bird Action Plan (2010); likely to be considerably less now

Threats

- Predation by sugar gliders
- Habitat loss in breeding and foraging habitat
- Introduced species (bumblebees, starlings)
- Illegal firewood harvesting

Action and investment

- 3 • NESP Project worth \$180 000 will focus on tackling threats to endangered hollow nesting birds in Tasmania, including swift parrots.
 - o MOST RECENT RESULT – 11 of 40 new artificially cut hollows being used at Murrayfield Station on Bruny Island. Very promising result.
- 2 • Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner participating in emergency meetings to address illegal firewood harvesting.
 - o Green Army team redeployed and built hundreds of nest boxes that were installed in affected illegal logging area.
- 1 • The Australian Government has invested over \$8 million in 52 projects that will support the recovery of the swift parrot. This is in addition to work underway through NRM regions supported by the National Landcare Programme. Examples:
 - o Green Army
 - Tuggerah Lakes rehabilitation of riparian habitats
 - o 20 Million trees
 - Berrima Native Vegetation Corridor Expanding local habitat
 - Central NSW – restoring endangered Grey Box Woodlands
 - SE NSW – Connecting and Expanding Habitat on Crown lands
 - o National Landcare Programme
 - 3 ▪ North West LLS - Natural Environment restoration and rehabilitation
 - South NRM – Waterways and coastal areas
- 4 • Validate NSW- NSW Government just announced \$1 million through Saving Our Species to improve habitat on Central Coast and Riverina.

SWIFT PARROT PROJECTS

Round	Program	Unique ID	Project Title	Description	State	Total
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-145	Tomago & Hexham sections, Hunter Wetlands NP - revegetating 40 ha of floodplain	Five consortium partners will revegetate 40 hectares of degraded floodplain in internationally important Hunter Estuary wetlands by direct seeding and planting 237,700 locally native plants, consisting of 24 species of plants that form NSW-listed Swamp Oak and Swamp Sclerophyll Forest EECs. Plantings will include 850 individuals of federally listed threatened plants Magenta Lilly Pilly and White-Flowered Wax Plant, create landscape connectivity between two patches of remnant vegetation covering 460 ha, and create habitat and food sources for federally listed threatened fauna Koala, Spotted-Tail Quoll and Swift Parrot.	NSW	\$ 98,300.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-184	Tamar Valley Rural Biodiversity and Landscape Learning Project	Working with schools, councils and community in the Tamar our Urban/Rural project will connect city and country. The Urban component will: - Link with schools and councils to revegetate with endemic species some Launceston, West Tamar and George Town council reserves. - Involve schools and community groups in propagation of seedlings as well as their planting. - Provide a fertile learning experience through "Landscape Learning" The Rural component will: - Support high priority natural biodiversity areas by revegetating with local provenance tree and understory species. - Engage with landholders to establish biodiverse shelter belts and returning degraded farm land to enhance ecosystem services. - Include Revegetation Management Plans	TAS	\$ 98,000.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-159	Marchwiell Endangered Bird, Mammal & Stag Beetle Habitat Restoration Project	This project on the Marchwiell coastal property in SE Tasmania will establish 5,700 trees in an 8ha cleared block surrounded by native eucalyptus woodland. The site is 700m from the coast & is important habitat for EPBC endangered 40 spotted pardalote, swift parrot & stag beetle & vulnerable spotted tailed quoll. Marchwiell is within the Wielangta Swift Parrot Important Breeding Area, with almost all the breeding population using the area, including Marchwiell in recent years. This project will supplement coastal blue gum, white gum, white peppermint and black gum forests that are critical foraging habitat for these threatened birds. The landholder will fence a 6ha block within the site at his own expense to manage native browsing pressures.	TAS	\$ 24,700.00

20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-137	Tasmanian coastal reserves- restoration of swift parrot habitat	This project will restore blue gum plant communities to provide habitat for swift parrots, through the planting of blue gums in degraded coastal reserves in SE Tasmania. The initial study will prioritise sites using existing plans and surveys, such as the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Management Zoning of these coastal reserves. Technical expertise will be provided by UTAS as well as project partners PWS, Birds Tasmania and Forestry Tasmania. Community support will be provided by the Understorey Network and local Wildcare groups.	TAS	\$ 94,798.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-18	Mornington Peninsula - Corridor Connections	This project aims to establish native vegetation at two sites that will close the gaps in key existing fragmented corridors, contribute to improved waterway health and support land rehabilitation works occurring adjacent to the sites. These work will see the reinstatement of ecological vegetation communities that support seven species list as threatened under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. The Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape (LMPL) initiative that aims to reconnect fragmented remnants of indigenous vegetation to create wildlife corridors (biolinks) on the Mornington Peninsula has identified these sites, conducted extensive planning and consultation and this project will see the culmination this work.	VIC	\$ 81,000.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-243	Greening the Geelong Hinterland - Building Biolinks for Threatened Species	This project will expand and join fragmented remnant landscapes within a 50k radius of Victoria's major regional city, Geelong. The GLN's vision is to link the Barwon, Moorabool and Hovells river systems with the Dog Rocks Flora & Fauna Sanctuary, the Red Gum Reserve, Teesdale Grassy Woodland, Inverleigh Flora & Fauna Reserve, Bannockburn Bush, Serendip Sanctuary, Mt Rothwell Conservation Centre, Brisbane Ranges National Park and You Yangs State Park. The project will build on our recent Biodiversity Project which has seen 160,000 trees, shrubs and understorey species planted and 100k of direct seeding. Biolinks are vital in our area to buffer significant ecosystems such as grassy woodlands from further fragmentation and urban encroachment.	VIC	\$ 59,998.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-224	Huon Island - Restoring the Balance	This project will restore Huon Island by undertaking pest eradication and habitat restoration through revegetation. Landcare Tasmania Inc will link with local schools, local Aboriginal corporations and the local community to undertake revegetation activities and develop education materials.	TAS	\$ 20,000.00

20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-75	A Greener Grain	<p>A Greener Grainbelt provides members of the Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group (HMLG) with opportunities to continue revegetation that has occurred over the past 25 yrs. Plantings will enhance HMLG's ongoing commitment to rehabilitate & restore habitat across the grainbelt by planting approximately 70ha. This will help to address critically low levels of remaining remnant vegetation across Harden Shire, identified at 2.83% by satellite imagery in 1997. This project will also support remediation of sites affected by soil erosion, link existing plantings & enhance diversity of older plantings. Species selection for new plantings will also consider predicted effects of climate change to ensure adaptability & long term survival of revegetation.</p> <p>This project will be a key initial step in a strategic plan to connect native vegetation of the Great Dividing Range along the eastern edge of the Central New South Wales Tablelands with significant isolated islands of native vegetation in the west. These vegetation remnants contain numerous threatened species including the iconic Koala, regent honeyeater and swift parrot. The corridor traces a once major song line and trading route for Australian Indigenous peoples and holds numerous important cultural sites. Initially through the combined work of more than 25 private landholders, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Land Care and State Government and area of 150 ha will be planted using over 15,000 trees of local provenance.</p> <p>Connecting Country aims to enhance and restore natural landscapes across the Mount Alexander Region of central Victoria. This proposed project will increase the extent of woodland habitat for the threatened Regent Honeyeater, with benefits for other nationally threatened species and communities. In close partnership with four local Landcare groups, we will undertake site preparation, revegetation and follow-up monitoring at six locations. As a result, 6300 trees, shrubs and understorey species will be planted across 22.5 hectares.</p> <p>This project will raise awareness of the damage caused by feral cats to native fauna, will implement actions to reduce their numbers in the Broadford area, and will conserve threatened species. A community education program including pamphlets, displays and field days will raise awareness of biodiversity issues and the harm caused by feral cats. Cat traps will be circulated throughout bushland properties to reduce predation and to encourage breeding of small mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. Nest boxes to provide habitat will be constructed by local mens sheds and field days will be held to install them. These will benefit Brush tailed phascogales, Dunnarts, Swift Parrots, Diamond Firetail Speckled Warblers and Growing Grass Frogs.</p>	NSW	\$ 59,970.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-112	Cowra Rehabilitation and Restoration of Native Vegetation Assets	<p>This project will be a key initial step in a strategic plan to connect native vegetation of the Great Dividing Range along the eastern edge of the Central New South Wales Tablelands with significant isolated islands of native vegetation in the west. These vegetation remnants contain numerous threatened species including the iconic Koala, regent honeyeater and swift parrot. The corridor traces a once major song line and trading route for Australian Indigenous peoples and holds numerous important cultural sites. Initially through the combined work of more than 25 private landholders, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Land Care and State Government and area of 150 ha will be planted using over 15,000 trees of local provenance.</p> <p>Connecting Country aims to enhance and restore natural landscapes across the Mount Alexander Region of central Victoria. This proposed project will increase the extent of woodland habitat for the threatened Regent Honeyeater, with benefits for other nationally threatened species and communities. In close partnership with four local Landcare groups, we will undertake site preparation, revegetation and follow-up monitoring at six locations. As a result, 6300 trees, shrubs and understorey species will be planted across 22.5 hectares.</p> <p>This project will raise awareness of the damage caused by feral cats to native fauna, will implement actions to reduce their numbers in the Broadford area, and will conserve threatened species. A community education program including pamphlets, displays and field days will raise awareness of biodiversity issues and the harm caused by feral cats. Cat traps will be circulated throughout bushland properties to reduce predation and to encourage breeding of small mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. Nest boxes to provide habitat will be constructed by local mens sheds and field days will be held to install them. These will benefit Brush tailed phascogales, Dunnarts, Swift Parrots, Diamond Firetail Speckled Warblers and Growing Grass Frogs.</p>	NSW	\$ 100,000.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-128	Mount Alexander Region - Landcare Bringing Back the Regent Honeyeater	<p>This project will raise awareness of the damage caused by feral cats to native fauna, will implement actions to reduce their numbers in the Broadford area, and will conserve threatened species. A community education program including pamphlets, displays and field days will raise awareness of biodiversity issues and the harm caused by feral cats. Cat traps will be circulated throughout bushland properties to reduce predation and to encourage breeding of small mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. Nest boxes to provide habitat will be constructed by local mens sheds and field days will be held to install them. These will benefit Brush tailed phascogales, Dunnarts, Swift Parrots, Diamond Firetail Speckled Warblers and Growing Grass Frogs.</p>	VIC	\$ 38,500.00
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-262	Trapping Feral Cats and Freeing Small Mammals in the Broadford Area	<p>This project will raise awareness of the damage caused by feral cats to native fauna, will implement actions to reduce their numbers in the Broadford area, and will conserve threatened species. A community education program including pamphlets, displays and field days will raise awareness of biodiversity issues and the harm caused by feral cats. Cat traps will be circulated throughout bushland properties to reduce predation and to encourage breeding of small mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. Nest boxes to provide habitat will be constructed by local mens sheds and field days will be held to install them. These will benefit Brush tailed phascogales, Dunnarts, Swift Parrots, Diamond Firetail Speckled Warblers and Growing Grass Frogs.</p>	VIC	\$ 20,000.00

20 Million Trees	Grant Round 2: 2015-16	20MTR2-250	Northern Tablelands - Trees on farms in Cool Country	<p>This project will engage graziers to plant native trees and shrubs on their farms in the extensively cleared landscape in the Walcha and Armidale district in northern NSW. Over 30,000 native trees and shrubs will be established with tubestock and direct seeding using local provenance seed from the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services native seed bank. These activities will provide conservation and agricultural production outcomes in this significant wool and beef growing region. The revegetation works will provide vital connecting corridors and stepping stones of habitat for threatened woodland birds and other wildlife, as well as shelter and shade for livestock.</p> <p>By June 2018, this project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a minimum of 455,000 trees across up to 350 hectares within and adjacent to two nature refuges located in southern Queensland. Increase the amount, and quality, of habitat available for the Regent Honeyeater, including through utilising revegetation to link existing remnants of Ironbark/Box and Box Gum Grassy Woodland TECs. Increase the amount of critical habitat available to a variety of other fauna species listed as vulnerable or endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), including Spot-tailed Quoll (<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>), Swift Parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>), Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>), Painted Honeyeater (<i>Grantiella picta</i>) and Squatter Pigeon (southern; <i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>). Increase community and landholder awareness of the role of revegetation in threatened species conservation within the Border Rivers Maranoa-Balonne region. 	NSW	\$ 86,400.00
20 Million Trees	National Service Provider - Tranche 2	20MT-CO2-T2-01	Restoring Habitat for the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater in Southern Queensland	<p>This project will increase the extent and condition of native vegetation to improve habitat required by three nationally endangered fauna species (Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Tiger Quoll). The project will increase the extent of an existing 112ha Eucalypt woodland by planting 10 000 native plants across 20ha. The 10 000 native plants will be made up of 8 000 native trees and 2 000 native understorey plants. This planting will run alongside both sides of the remnant to increase the width of the narrowest areas from 100m to 170m. This will increase the condition of the entire patch as a natural wildlife pathway.</p>	QLD	\$ 1,178,450.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-293	Berrima - Native Vegetation Corridor Expanding Local Habitat	<p>This project will increase the extent and condition of native vegetation to improve habitat required by three nationally endangered fauna species (Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Tiger Quoll). The project will increase the extent of an existing 112ha Eucalypt woodland by planting 10 000 native plants across 20ha. The 10 000 native plants will be made up of 8 000 native trees and 2 000 native understorey plants. This planting will run alongside both sides of the remnant to increase the width of the narrowest areas from 100m to 170m. This will increase the condition of the entire patch as a natural wildlife pathway.</p>	QLD	\$ 100,000.00

20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-123	Lower South East Biolink: Connect and expand habitat in an agricultural landscape	<p>Continue to create corridors and enhance habitats as per the Port MacDonnell Landcare Group's strategic biolink plan, aiming to connect the Lower Glenelg National Park/Piccininnie Ponds Ramsar wetlands to Canunda National Park. Restore 30ha of eucalypt woodlands and rare, depleted tea tree shrublands by planting 48,000 seedlings to improve the extent, condition, resilience and connectivity of habitat for associated species (many rare and threatened). Considering the fragmented, intensely used agricultural landscape, in addition to long term biodiversity outcomes, multiple and practical secondary outcomes are desired, including community stewardship, sustainable native woodlots, shelter benefits, koala rehabilitation and seed orchards.</p>	SA	\$ 100,000.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-187	Phillip Island Wildlife Corridors from Urban and Country to Coast	<p>This project aims to strengthen the network of vegetation corridors across Phillip Island linking rural to urban areas and the coast. 30,000 plants will be established over 15 sites buffering Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council reserves, coastlines, urban areas and Saltwater creek. This will improve the vegetation quality and provide new links to facilitate easier movement and increased habitat for threatened species. Community members will work together with landholders, schools, local organisations and the Green Army on public and private land to remove invasive weeds, prepare sites, grow and plant indigenous plants to help sequester carbon, increase urban forests, filter and protect our waterways and Westernport Bay.</p>	VIC	\$ 100,000.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-32	'Ouraway' Steep hill revegetation project Strath Creek	<p>'Ouraway' is 1300 acre property located in the King Parrot valley of the upper Goulburn river catchment, near the township of Strath Creek. The property comprises deep valleys, valley floor flats and steep ridges and has the most significant stand (approximately 400 acres) of remnant indigenous box forest/woodland within its boundary. The proposed re-vegetation project, will compliment 10 years of ongoing vegetation establishment works so far 45,000 tube stock seedlings have been planted and guarded on this property. The steep hills re-vegetation work would establish 21280 new indigenous seedlings adding to the already existing remnant vegetation and establishing plantings from previous years.</p>	VIC	\$ 100,000.00

25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	25th Anniversary Landcare Grants - Environment	25ALG-613	Yass Gorge - Natl Temperate Grassland Rehabilitation	<p>This project represents Phase 2 of the Yass Gorge Rehabilitation project currently being undertaken by Yass Valley Council, together with Buranya Aboriginal Corporation, Kosciusko to Coast, and YLG Inc. The project will commission an expert Management Plan for the endangered Natural Temperate Grassland on the cliff tops of the Gorge as part of a systematic strategy to conserve this special ecosystem. The plan will also provide a benchmark for future monitoring and management of the Yass Gorge. On the basis of this plan, the project will educate local residents and landcarers through signage and events on the conservation value and strategies of the Grassland, and engage the community in taking ownership its long term conservation.</p>	NSW	\$ 14,300.00
20 Million Trees	Grant Round 1: 2014-15	20MT-260	Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area - forest restoration	<p>Within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area 2013 extension there are a number of logged over coupes which require restoration. Of these coupes, there are sites that were logged more than 3 years ago and for this reason not deemed suitable for ecological burning for restoration of the original forest composition. This project will provide site preparation and seeding treatment to sites assessed as having a stocking rate of less than 40%. The project planning to identify priority sites and methodology for restoration has already been completed through the Tasmanian Landscape Restoration Project, and the steering group for that current project will take on overseeing the new restoration sites in this project proposal.</p>	TAS	\$ 96,037.75
Total: 19 projects						\$2,470,453.75
33 Green Army projects						\$ 5,775,000.00
Total investment						\$ 8,245,453.75

KOALA

- EPBC Status: Vulnerable in NSW, QLD, ACT
- Mammal Action Plan: Vulnerable
- Main threats
 - Habitat loss
 - Dog attacks
 - Road mortality
 - Disease

- Koalas are an iconic species and are, and will continue to be, a priority for the Department. The Government is continuing its commitment to the recovery of threatened species, including the koala, based on the approach of science, action and partnership.
- ④ • Since July 2014 the Australian Government has mobilised over \$9 million for 70 projects that will rehabilitate, restore and link koala habitat. This includes 44 projects under the Green Army Programme and 26 projects through the 20 Million Trees and National Landcare Programmes.
- On 27 July, I attended a Koala Roundtable convened by the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council to discuss long term options for sustaining this very important population of koalas.
- The Australian Government is collaborating with state and territory partners to prepare a recovery plan for the nationally listed koala population of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.
- The recovery plan will replace the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009-2014 as the major national plan guiding koala conservation across these jurisdictions
- Public consultation on the draft recovery plan will be sought in late 2016.
- As agreed at the fourth Meeting of Environment Ministers in December 2015, the Australian and Victorian governments are jointly leading the development of national koala translocation guidelines that will focus on health, welfare and genetic implications of moving koalas between jurisdictions.
- The proposed translocation guidelines will be developed alongside the recovery plan during 2016 and will be consistent with its conservation objectives.
- The koala is not listed in Victoria and South Australia as populations are large and broadly stable and hence did not meet the listing criteria. In some areas koalas are eating themselves out of suitable foraging habitat and their numbers are being managed by the state governments.

TASMANIAN DEVIL

- EPBC Status: Endangered
- Mammal Action Plan: Endangered
- Main threat:
 - Disease
 - Road mortality
 - Poisoning
 - Habitat loss

- Devils are an iconic species and play a unique ecological role in Tasmania. The Government is continuing its commitment to the recovery of threatened species, including the Tasmanian devil, based on the approach of science, action and partnership.
- A new recovery plan has been prepared and agreed with the Tasmanian Government which sets out the objectives and actions to support recovery.
- The Australian Government is also committing \$3.3 million to the Tasmanian Devil Landscape Isolation Program, which is strengthening and maintaining the insurance population of Tasmanian devils which are free of the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD), whilst also ensuring healthy devil populations are maintained in the wild to fulfil their ecological role.
- Toledo Zoo also assisting. Recently visited during a trip to the US and was impressed with their commitment to threatened species recovery.

DUGONG

- EPBC Status: Marine and Migratory
- Mammal Action Plan: Near Threatened
- Main threat:
 - Habitat degradation
 - Pollution
 - Entanglement
- Mammal Action Plan says decline in some areas but doesn't recommend listing.
- Top three threats are habitat degradation, pollution and entanglement/accidental catch in fishing gear.
- The Australian Government is providing \$5 million for the Dugong and Turtle Protection Plan including \$2 million to understand the nature and extent of environmental crime and, where applicable, intervene against illicit wildlife traffickers.
- The Department of the Environment and Energy is working closely with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Australian Crime Commission and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to implement the Plan.
- Great work is being done in the Torres Strait to empower local communities to manage dugongs, actions appear to be working. I will work within the context of the Native Title Act which allows for the legal hunting of native species and my Terms of Reference.
- The Australian Government supports community led strategies to sustainably manage turtles and dugongs, such as through Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements developed by communities in the Great Barrier Reef.
- Receiving advice from Prof. Helene Marsh, Chair of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee and dugong expert.

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SPOTTED-TAILED QUOLL

- EPBC Status: Endangered (north Queensland and south-eastern mainland) and Vulnerable (Tasmania)
- Mammal Action Plan: Endangered (north Queensland) and Vulnerable (south-eastern mainland and Tasmanian)
- Main threats:
 - Foxes
 - Habitat loss and degradation
 - Inappropriate fire regimes
- A national recovery plan was adopted by the Minister on 2 May 2016 covering all three listed subspecies.
- The Australian Government is providing \$3.62 million towards 23 projects to benefit the spotted-tailed quoll.
- One project under the NESP TSR Hub '*Managing fire regimes with thresholds to save threatened flora and fauna*' is carrying out on-ground field trials to benefit the species in the Gippsland forests of Victoria.
- 32 Green Army teams are also on the ground supporting the recovery of the species.
- These projects are being carried out across the entire range of the species: in QLD, NSW, VIC and TAS.
- Proud of the efforts of the Conservation Ecology Centre in the Otways, VIC who work with the community to train conservation dogs that are about to detect quolls.
- Also in correspondence with the Australian Quoll Conservancy, who have a particular focus on the north QLD sub-species of the spotted-tailed quoll and are dedicated to the conservation of all four of Australia's quoll species.

BRAMBLE CAY MELOMYS

- EPBC Status: Endangered (possibly extinct)
- Mammal Action Plan: Critically Endangered (possibly extinct)
- Main threat:
 - Cay erosion

- The Bramble Cay melomys is a small rodent that lives on a single 5-hectare sand cay in the far northeast of the Torres Strait, about 50km from the mouth of the Fly River in Papua New Guinea.
- While 2002 and 2004 surveys of the cay trapped 10 and 12 individuals respectively, surveys in 2011 and early 2014 failed to capture any individuals.
- A Queensland Government survey to Bramble Cay from 29 August to 5 September 2014 found no melomys left on the cay and supports fears the mammal may well be extinct.
- The surveys have indicated a recent dramatic loss of the island's overall size and extent of vegetation probably due to extreme weather events leading to severe erosion.
- Bramble Cay is adjacent to a river delta and has always been in a state of flux with its movements strongly influenced by prevailing weather patterns. The nature of cays is that they are small, shifting and temporary.
- Further analysis will need to be undertaken to provide certainty on the underlying causes of its possible extinction, given the Bramble Cay melomys recovery plan, approved in 2009, identified erosion of Bramble Cay due to natural processes as the main threat to the species.
- To be declared extinct under national environment law there must be no reasonable doubt that the last Bramble Cay melomys has died. I understand we may not be at that point yet. There has been speculation the species may also occur in Papua New Guinea (PNG) given how close the cay is to the Fly River region or on other islands in the Torres Strait.

GREATER GLIDER

- EPBC Status: Vulnerable
- Mammal Action Plan: Vulnerable
- Main threat:
 - Habitat loss
 - Inappropriate fire regimes
 - Timber production
 - Climate change
- The greater glider was listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act on 25 May 2016.
- Department is preparing a Recovery Plan for the species and in November there will be a greater glider recovery planning meeting to begin work. WHaM can provide further information.
- Contributed \$200,000 towards the project '*Implementation of dedicated management for a nationally threatened species hotspot at Mt Lewis, Mt Spurgeon and Mt Windsor National Parks*' in partnership with the QLD Government and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. This project is improving habitat through fire management and feral animal and weed control, and allowing biological surveys and research to be conducted.

RFA's

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- The species is found in the East Gippsland RFA area in Victoria.
- Through Regional Forest Agreements across Australia, the Australian Government recognises the need to balance the environmental, social and economic objectives for native forest management.
- The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for the Australian Government on RFA's.
- Direct RFA questions to colleagues in forest policy.

GIANT FRESHWATER CRAYFISH

Background

- EPBC status: Vulnerable
- IUCN status: Endangered
- Heavy flooding in June in Tasmania contributed to a large spike in freshwater crayfish deaths.
- New recovery plan being developed.

Threats

- Illegal capture
- Habitat disturbance – including flooding and sedimentation of streams.
- Drought
- Climate change

Actions and investment

- New recovery plan has been written and put out for public comment. Over 2000 submissions have been looked at and a final draft is with the Tasmanian Government for consideration.

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- Consultation included Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Forestry Tasmania, Forest Practices Authority, Irrigation Tasmania, CSIRO, UTAS and independent experts.

2.

- Key proposed actions in collaboration with Forestry organisations
 - Assess the impacts of increased sedimentation on crayfish and the effectiveness of current management actions in mitigating these impacts
 - Identify and implement methods for habitat protection in upstream reaches of priority areas.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND FLYING-FOX

- EPBC Status: Critically Endangered
- TARGETED SPECIES IN THE THREATENED SPECIES STRATEGY
- Mammal Action Plan: Critically Endangered

Threats

- Predation by feral cats
- Poisoning by cadmium
- Yellow crazy ants
- Severe weather event

Background

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- Regarded as a keystone species for its seed dispersal and pollination role
- Understood to have suffered significant decline, which led to uplisting to CE in 2014
- CIFF population estimates are difficult to derive and can have a significant error margin
- Thought to be about 2000 CIFF on the island and its possible its numbers are stabilising from earlier declines
- Our understanding of its ecology and threats is limited but improving. Yellow crazy ants may have contributed to the decline, research is underway to investigate further
- Significant research effort underway, including from the NESP.

Action and investment

- Targeted species for improved trajectory by 2020 under the Threatened Species Strategy
- Mobilised \$500 000 towards the Christmas Island feral cat eradication plan
- Contributing \$516 505 towards a NESP project to enhance conservation outcomes for Christmas Island. It will identify and prioritise action needed for the threatened and declining CI flying-fox.
- Collaboration is key to protecting the Christmas Island flying-fox and many partners are involved: CSIRO, Western Sydney University, The Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney and Taronga Zoo's Australian Registry of Wildlife Health, Parks Australia, DPAW, Christmas Island community, Shire of Christmas Island.

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Species addressed through TSC funding

	Directly	Parks	Cats	GA R4	20MT R2
Mammals	30	14	58	44	16
Birds	15	31	41	56	21
Reptile	4	15	21	15	4
Amphibian	2	2	4	10	9
Fish	2			12	3
Invertebrate	1	5		11	2
Plants	4	54		119	17
EC	4	1			
Totals	62	122	124	267	72

Fauna species addressed directly through TSC funding = 54 (only includes direct grants, does not include Green Army, 20MT, NESP etc.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Grey nurse shark | New Holland mouse |
| Spotted handfish | Brush-tailed rock-wallaby |
| Southern bent-wing bat | Bilby |
| Curlew sandpiper | Mala |
| Fairy tern | Mountain pygmy-possum |
| Mahogany glider | Konoom |
| Southern cassowary | Woylie |
| Red-lored whistler | Black-footed rock-wallaby |
| Western whipbird | Night parrot |
| Regent parrot | Kowari |
| Malleefowl | Plains mouse |
| Western ground parrot | Plain wanderer |
| Eastern barred bandicoot | Orange-bellied parrot |
| Southern corroboree frog | Numbat |
| Northern corroboree frog | Western ring-tailed possum |
| Western quoll | Legless lizard |
| Hooded plover | Golden sun moth |
| Eastern bettong | Pink tailed worm lizard |

Gilbert's potoroo
Quokka
Noisy scrub-bird
Western swamp tortoise
Spotted-tailed quoll
Brush-tailed mulgara
Glossy black cockatoo
Northern quoll
Brush-tailed rabbit-rat

Pale field rat
Northern hopping mouse
Central rock-rat
Long-tailed dunnart
Flatback turtles
Long-nosed potoroo
Southern brown bandicoot
Norfolk Island green parrot
Buff-banded rails

Fauna species addressed by tackling feral cats = 124

Burrowing Bettong (Shark Bay), Boodie
Woylie
Mountain Pygmy-possum
Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat, Brush-tailed Tree-rat,
Pakooma
Christmas Island Shrew
Crest-tailed Mulgara
Kowari
Chuditch, Western Quoll
Northern Quoll
Spotted-tailed Quoll or Yarri (North
Queensland subspecies)
Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger
Quoll (south-eastern mainland population)
Spotted-tail Quoll, Spot-tailed Quoll, Tiger
Quoll (Tasmanian population)
Semon's Leaf-nosed Bat, Greater Wart-nosed
Horseshoe-bat
Golden Bandicoot (mainland)
Southern Brown Bandicoot (Nuyts Archipelago)
Southern Brown Bandicoot (Eastern)
Mala, Rufous Hare-Wallaby (central mainland
form)
Banded Hare-wallaby, Merrnine, Marnine,
Munning
Wopilkara, Greater Stick-nest Rat
Greater Bilby
Golden-backed Tree-rat, Koorrawal
Numbat
Northern Hopping-mouse, Woorrentinta
Dusky Hopping-mouse, Wilkiniti
Kakarratul, Northern Marsupial Mole
Itjaritjari, Southern Marsupial Mole,
Yitjarritjarri

Bridled Nail-tail Wallaby
Dibbler
Western Barred Bandicoot (Shark Bay)
Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania)
Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Mainland)
Mahogany Glider
Warru, Black-footed Rock-wallaby
(MacDonnell Ranges race)
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
Proserpine Rock-wallaby
Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (SA and NSW)
Red-tailed Phascogale
Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale
Gilbert's Potoroo
Long-footed Potoroo
Long-nosed Potoroo (SE mainland)
Carpentarian Antechinus
Western Ringtail Possum, Ngwayir
Shark Bay Mouse, Djoongari, Alice Springs
Mouse
Konoom, Smoky Mouse
New Holland Mouse, Pookila
Hastings River Mouse, Koontoo
Pilliga Mouse, Poolkoo
Dayang, Heath Rat
Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat
Kangaroo Island Dunnart
Butler's Dunnart
Julia Creek Dunnart
Sandhill Dunnart
Water Mouse, False Water Rat, Yirrkoo
Arnhem Rock-rat, Arnhem Land Rock-rat,

Kodjpers
 Carpentarian Rock-rat, Aywalirroomoo
 Central Rock-rat, Antina
 Christmas Island Goshawk
 Grey Grasswren (Bulloo)
 Thick-billed Grasswren
 Australasian Bittern
 Muir's Corella (southern), Western Long-billed
 Corella (southern)
 Streaked Shearwater
 Spotted Quail-thrush (Mt Lofty Ranges)
 Norfolk Island Parakeet, Tasman Parrot
 Coxen's Fig-Parrot
 Eastern Bristlebird
 Yellow Chat (Dawson)
 Yellow Chat (Alligator Rivers)
 Christmas Island Frigatebird, Andrew's
 Frigatebird
 Buff-banded Rail (Cocos (Keeling) Islands)
 Lord Howe Woodhen
 Squatter Pigeon (southern)
 Partridge Pigeon (western)
 Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Mt Lofty
 Ranges)
 Swift Parrot
 Malleefowl
 Helmeted Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted
 Honeyeater (Helmeted)
 Regent Honeyeater
 Purple-crowned Fairy-wren (western)
 White-winged Fairy-wren (Dirk Hartog Island),
 Dirk Hartog Black-and-White Fairy-wren
 Star Finch (eastern), Star Finch (southern)
 Orange-bellied Parrot
 Christmas Island Hawk-Owl, Moluccan
 Hawkowl
 Southern Boobook (Norfolk Island), Norfolk
 Island Boobook Owl
 Golden Whistler (Norfolk Island)
 Red-lored Whistler
 Fairy Prion (southern)
 Forty-spotted Pardalote
 Pacific Robin (Norfolk Island)

Western Ground Parrot, Kyloring
 Night Parrot
 White-tailed Tropicbird (Christmas Island)
 Gould's Petrel
 Australian Fairy Tern
 Southern Emu-wren (Fleurieu Peninsula),
 Mount Lofty Southern Emu-wren
 Mallee Emu-wren
 Black-breasted Button-quail
 Five-clawed Worm-skink, Long-legged Worm-
 skink
 Ningaloo Worm Lizard, Monte Bello Worm-
 lizard
 Arnhem Land Egernia
 Lord Howe Island Gecko, Lord Howe Island
 Southern Gecko
 Christmas Island blue-tailed skink
 Alpine She-oak Skink
 Striped Legless Lizard
 Christmas Island forest skink, Christmas Island
 whiptail skink
 Hawksbill Turtle
 Blue Mountains Water Skink
 Corangamite Water Skink
 Broad-headed Snake
 Christmas Island Gecko, Lister's Gecko
 Olive Python (Pilbara subspecies)
 Guthega Skink
 Great Desert Skink, Tjakura, Warrarna,
 Mulyamiji
 Lord Howe Island Skink
 Christmas Island Blind Snake
 Fitzroy River Turtle, Fitzroy Tortoise, Fitzroy
 Turtle, White-eyed River Diver
 Grassland Earless Dragon
 Border Thick-tailed Gecko, Granite Belt Thick-
 tailed Gecko
 Giant Burrowing Frog
 Green and Golden Bell Frog
 Yellow-spotted Tree Frog, Yellow-spotted Bell
 Frog
 Baw Baw Frog

Fauna species addressed through TSC funding in National Parks = 67

Booderee

Giant Burrowing Frog
 Green and Gold Bellfrog

Curlew Sandpiper
 Eastern Bristlebird
 Swift Parrot

Eastern Curlew
Australian Painted Snipe
Hooded plover (eastern)
Southern brown bandicoot
Long-nosed Potoroo
Grey-headed Flying Fox

Christmas Island

Christmas Island goshawk
Christmas Island emerald dove

Kakadu

White-throated Grass Wren
Curlew Sandpiper
Yellow Chat (Alligator Rivers)
Red Goshawk
Gouldian Finch
Crested Shrike-tit (northern)
Partridge Pigeon (eastern)
Eastern Curlew
Australian Painted Snipe
Masked Owl (northern)
Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat
Northern Quoll
Golden Bandicoot (mainland)
Golden-backed Tree-rat
Northern hopping-mouse
Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale
Bare-rumped Sheath-tail Bat
Water Mouse
Arnhem Land Rock-rat
Plains Death Adder
Arnhemland Egernia (Arnhem land skink)
Loggerhead Turtle

Christmas Island frigatebird
Christmas Island hawk-owl
Abbott's booby
White-tailed tropic bird (Golden bosun)
Island trush (Christmas Island)
Christmas Island shrew
Christmas Island flying fox
Christmas Island blue-tailed skink
Christmas Island giant gecko
Christmas Island forest skink
Lister's gecko
Christmas Island blind snake

Green Turtle
Hawksbill Turtle
Olive Ridley Turtle
Yellow-snouted Gecko
Flatback Turtle

Norfolk Island

Norfolk Island Green Parrot
Norfolk Island Boobook Owl
Eastern Curlew
Golden Whistler (Norfolk Island)
Pacific Robin (Norfolk Island)
Kermadec Petrel (western)
Black-browed Albatross
White-breasted White-eye
Campbell's helicarionid land snail
Gray's Helicarionid Land Snail
Phillip Island Helicarionid Land Snail
a Helicarionid Land Snail
Stoddart's Helicarionid Land Snail
Lord Howe Island Gecko
Lord Howe Island Skink

Plant species addressed directly through TSC funding = 4 species and 4 ecological communities

Kangaroo Island phebalium
Small-flowered daisy-bush
MacGillivray spyridium
Red cabbage palm
Kangaroo island Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland ecological community
Subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh ecological community
Box-gum grassy woodlands and derived native grassland ecological community
Native temperate grassland of the Southern Tableland of NSW and the ACT ecological community

Plant species addressed through TSC funding in National Parks = at least 54 (potentially up to 409, but likely to be double counting) and 1 ecological community

Reviewing recovery plans for threatened plant species – 50 threatened plant species in Commonwealth terrestrial reserves (names not specified)

Identifying genetic gaps in plant collections safeguarded by the Australian National Botanic Gardens – ANBG houses approximately 300 nationally threatened plants (names not specified)

Booderee

Leafless Tongue Orchid
Magenta Lilly Pilly

Christmas Island

Asplenium listeri Christmas Island
Spleenwort
Pneumatopteris a fern
truncata
Tectaria devexa var. a fern
minor

Kakadu

Acacia equisetifolia (D19063 graveside A
gorge) shrub
Boronia quadrilata A
shrubs
Boronia viridiflora A
shrubs
Hibiscus brennanii A
shrubs
Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrubland Complex
ecological community

Downy Ground-fern
Mistletoe
Shield-fern
King Fern
Shade Tree
Norfolk Island Mahoe
Whiteywood
a tree
a tree
Pohuehue
Popwood
Beech
Pennatia
an orchid
an orchid
Oleander
Bastard Ironwood
King's Brakefern
Netted Brakefern
a daisy
a daisy
a daisy
Siah's Backbone
Minute Orchid
Norfolk Island Orchid
Hanging Fork-fern
Bastard Oak
Kurrajong

Norfolk Island

Norfolk Island Abutilon
Chaff-tree
Phillip Island Chaff-tree
Norfolk Island Water-fern
Tree Nettle
a creeper
Clematis
Coastal Coprosma
Mountain Coprosoma
Ti
Middle Filmy Fern
Sharkwood
Mountain Procris
Phillip Island Wheat Grass
Norfolk Island Euphorbia
a herb
Phillip Island Hibiscus

Species addressed through Round Four of the Green Army Programme = 267

Booroolong Frog	Emu-wren
Fleay's Frog	Newcastle doubletail
Giant Barred Frog	Noisy Scrub-bird
Giant Burrowing Frog	Norfolk Island Boobook Owl
Green and Gold Frog	Norfolk Island Green Parrot
Growling Grass Frog	Orange-bellied Parrot
Southern bell frog	Painted Honeyeater
Spotted Tree Frog	Partridge Pigeon
Stuttering Frog	Plains wanderer
Yellow-Spotted Bell Frog	Purple Crowned Fairy Wren
Abbott's booby	Red Goshawk
Australasian Bittern	Red-lored Whistler
Australian Fairy Tern	Regent Honeyeater
Australian Painted Snipe	Regent Parrot (Eastern Subspecies)
Bassian Thrush (Mt Lofty Ranges)	Slender-billed Thornbill
Baudin's Black-Cockatoo	South-eastern red tailed black cockatoo
Black-breasted Button-quail	Southern Cassowary
Black-eared Miner	Star Finch (eastern)
Buff-breasted Button-quail	Superb Parrot
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	Swift Parrot
Cassowary	Thick Billed Grass Wren
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Mt Lofty Ranges)	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Christmas Island emerald dove	Western Ground Parrot
Christmas Island frigate bird	Western Whipbird (eastern)
Christmas Island goshawk	Yellow Chat (Alligator Rivers)
Coxen's Fig-Parrot	Australian Grayling
Crested Shrike-tit (northern)	Barred Galaxias
Curlew Sandpiper	Dwarf Galaxias
Eastern Bristlebird	Lake Eacham Rainbowfish
Eastern Curlew	Maquarie Perch
Forest Red-tailed Black- Cockatoo	Mary River Cod
Forty-spotted Pardalote	Murray Cod
Glossy black-cockatoo	Silver Perch
Golden Shouldered Parrott	Spotted Galaxias (western subspecies),
Gouldian finch	Tasmanian Chaostola skipper
Hooded Plover (eastern)	Trout Cod
Lord Howe Island Woodhen	Yarra Pygmy Perch
Mallee Emu-wren	Australian Native Bee
Malleefowl	Blind Velvet Worm
Masked Owl (northern)	Central North Burrowing Crayfish (CNBC)
Masked Owl (Tasmanian)	Dunsborough Burrowing
Mount Lofty Ranges Southern	

Crayfish
Dural Land Snail
Golden Sun Moth
Purple Copper Butterfly
Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider
Short tongued bee
Simson's Stag Beetle
Vanderschoors Stag Beetle
Arnhem Rock-rat
Australian sea-lion
Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat
Bilby
Black-footed Tree-rat
Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat
Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby
Christmas Island flying-fox
Chuditch, Western Quoll
Corben's Long-eared Bat
Dibbler
Eastern Barred Bandicoot
(Mainland)
Eastern Barred Bandicoot
(Tasmania)
False Water Rat
Gilbert's Potoroo
Greater Large-eared Horseshoe
Bat
Grey-headed Flying-fox
Heath Mouse, Heath Rat,
Dayang
Kangaroo Island dunnart
Kangaroo Island echidna
Koala
Large-eared Pied Bat
Long-nosed Potoroo (SE
mainland)
Mahogany Glider
McDonnell Range Rock-wallaby
New Holland Mouse
Northern Bettong
Northern Brush-tailed
Phascogale
Northern Quoll
Numbat
Red-tailed phascogale
Sandhill Dunnart
Southern Brown Bandicoot
(Eastern)

Spectacled Flying Fox
Spot-tailed Quoll
Spotted-tailed Quoll
Tammar Wallaby
Tasmanian Devil
Western barred Bandicoot
Western Quoll
Western Ringtail Possum
Woylie
Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet
Tropics)
Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby
a fern
Albatross Mallee
Angle-stemmed Myrtle
Ball Nut
Basalt Pepper-cress
Bead Glasswort
Beaked Eremophila
Ben Lomond Leek Orchid
Bertya ernestiana
Biconvex Paperbark
Black-eyed Susan
Bomaderry Zieria
Broad-leaf Meryta
Brush sophora
Button Wrinklewort
Central Australian Cabbage Palm
Chalky Wattle
Charmhaven Apple
Clear Milkvine
Clematis fawcettii
Clover Glycine
Coast Spider Orchid
collard delma
Coloured spider orchid
Cooktown Orchid
Corybas montanus
Crimson Spider-orchid
Curly Sedge
Davies Waxflower
Dense Leek-orchid
Dorrigo Daisy-bush
Downy Wattle
Dwarf Bee Orchid
Dwellingup Synaphea
Earp's Gum

Euphrasia bella
False Plumed-Banksia
Feather-Leaved Banksia
Fleurieu Leek Orchid
Frankston Spider Orchid
French Island Spider Orchid
Ghost Spider Orchid
Glossy-leafed Hammer-orchid
Good's Banksia
Grand Spider Orchid
Granite Heath
Grass Conostylis
Hakea maconochieana
Hale Dwarf Greenhood
Harrington's Spider-orchid, Pink
Spider-orchid
Hoary Sunray
Illawarra Zieria
Jumping jack wattle
Kamballup Dryandra
Keighery's Eleocharis
Lamington eyebright
Large-fruit Groundsel
Latz's Wattle
Leafy Greenhood
Little Pink Spider-orchid
Lowan Phebalium
Magenta Lily Pily
Marlborough Blue Cycad
Matted Flax-Lily
Metallic sun orchid
Milky Silkpod
Monarto mintbush
Mount Compass Oak-bush
Mount Compass Swamp Gum
Nangetty Grass
Native Jute
Nightcap Plectranthus
Onion Cedar
Osborn's Eyebright
Pale Leek-orchid
Phillip Island Wheat Grass
Pink Lipped Spider Orchid
Plum Leek-orchid
Pretty Heath
Purdie's Donkey-orchid
Purple Eyebright

Ravine Orchid
Red Bopple Nut
Red Lilly Pilly
Rice Flower
Rough Shelled Bush Nut
Round-leaf Pomaderris
Rusty Rose Walnut
Sand Grasstree
Silver Daisy-bush
Slender Andersonia
small helmet orchid
Small Purple-pea
Southern Ochrosia
Southern Penda
Southern pipewort
Southern Shepherds Purse
Southern Swamp Orchid
Southern Tetraria
Spiked Rice-flower
Spiny Daisy
Spiny Peppercross
Spiny Rice-flower
Stiff White Spider-orchid
Swamp Star Flower
Sydney Pea Bush
Tall Donkey Orchid
Three-leaved Bosistoa
Toadflax
Tufted Plumed Featherflower
Undoolya Wattle
Variable Smokebush
Waddy
Wavy-leaved Smokebush
White beauty spider orchid
White Flowered Wax Plant
white lipped spider orchid
Yellow Gnat-orchid
Yellow swainson-pea
Arnhem Land Skink
Blue Mountain Water Skink
Blue tailed skink
Collared delma
Flat back turtle
Flinders Worm-lizard
Grassland Earless Dragon
Green Turtle
Lister's gecko

Loggerhead Turtle
Pink-tailed Worm-lizard
Plains Death Adder

Striped Legless Lizard
Three-toed Snake tooth skink
Western Swamp Tortoise

Species addressed through Round Two of the 20 Million Trees Programme = 72

Koala
Swift Parrot
Spotted-tail Quoll
Eastern barred bandicoot
Grey-headed Flying-fox
Regent Honeyeater
Tasmanian devil
Giant barred frog
Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmania)
Australasian Bittern
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo
Growling Grass Frog
Malleefowl
Southern Cassowary
Striped Legless Lizard
Black-breasted Button-quail
Coxen's Fig-Parrot
Green and Golden Bell Frog
Mary River Cod
Painted Honeyeater
Shiny-leaved Condoe
Silver Daisy Bush
Superb parrot
Tiger Quoll
Albert's Lyrebird
Angle-stemmed Myrtle
Australian Lace-lid
Australian lungfish
Australian Painted Snipe
Bacon Wood
Bathurst Copper Butterfly
Black-eared Miner
Black-footed tree-rat
Black-throated Finch
Booroolong Frog
Chuditch
Common Mistfrog
Corangamite Water Skink
Curlew Sandpiper
Eastern Bettong

Eastern Curlew
Eastern Dwarf Galaxias
Forty Spotted Pardalote
Giant Gippsland Earthworm
Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat
Latham's Snipe
Leafy Greenhood
Littlejohn's Tree Frog
Long-nosed Potoroo
Magenta Lilly Pilly
Mary River Turtle
Menzel's Wattle
Mount Compass Oak Bush
Mount Compass Swamp Gum
Mt Stuart Ironbark
Murray Cod
Northern Quoll
Numbat
Orange-bellied Parrot
Red-lored Whistler
Red-tailed Phascogale
Resin Wattle
Smooth-shelled Macadamia
Southern Bell Frog
Southern Brown Bandicoot
Southern Penda
Spalding Blown Grass
Spiller's Wattle
Spotted-tail Quoll (Tasmanian population)
Strzelecki Gum
Trailing Hopbush
White-Throated snapping turtle
Yellow Spotted Bell Frog

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
Additional Budget Estimates
February 2017
Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division

Brief 3.1

KOALAS

Issue

When the koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) was listed in 2012, the then Minister made a decision that a recovery plan was required and this was to commence following the expiration of the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy (the National Koala Strategy) in 2014.

The statutory timeframe for the recovery plan is 2 May 2018, but as the National Koala Strategy elapsed at the end of 2014, there is no current national approach to koala conservation.

In 2016, the Qld and NSW state government's separately committed to new state strategies to protect the koala following reports that numbers had continued to decline in parts of NSW and Qld (80% decline in south-east Qld). Qld and NSW plan to finalise strategies in late 2017 and implement in 2018.

The Government is collaborating with Qld and NSW to align the state strategies with the recovery plan.

Talking points

EPBC Act listed koala

- The Australian Government is drafting a recovery plan for the listed koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) in close collaboration with relevant state and territory governments, and in consultation with scientists, interest groups and the broader community.
- The plan will set out the research and management actions necessary to stop the decline, and support the recovery, of the listed koala across its range. The plan will propose actions to address the known threats (habitat loss and fragmentation, vehicle strike, disease and predation by dogs) and identify research to inform understanding about possible future threats such as climate change.
- The draft vision for the recovery plan is to have self-sustaining wild populations of the koala across Qld, NSW and the ACT in 100 years.
- Meetings with our NSW and Qld state government partners were held throughout 2016 to commence development of a draft Plan. The draft Plan will be available for public comment following consideration by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee mid this year.

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- A group made up of independent koala experts was established to inform technical aspects of the draft plan, including the development of detailed maps which outline koala populations and suitable habitat across its range to guide recovery plan actions.
- The Department is collaborating with state government partners to ensure that the recovery plan complements the new state koala strategies so that conservation actions align, providing a national approach to the recovery of the listed koala.
- New actions likely to have a significant impact on the listed koala, including proposals to clear or modify habitat, must be assessed and approved under the EPBC Act. Referral guidelines to assist proponents in their decision about whether to seek approval under the EPBC Act are on the Department's website.
- Since July 2014 the Australian Government has mobilised over \$9 million for 70 projects that will rehabilitate, restore and link koala habitat.

Koalas in Vic and SA – not listed under the EPBC Act

- Koala populations in Vic. and SA are large and broadly stable and hence did not meet the listing criteria in 2012. In some areas koalas are eating themselves out of suitable foraging habitat and their numbers are being managed by the state governments.
- The Government collaborates with Vic and SA on koala management issues.
- As agreed at a Meeting of Environment Ministers in December 2015, the Australian and Vic. governments will jointly lead the development of national koala translocation guidelines that will focus on health, welfare and genetic implications of moving koalas between jurisdictions.

Background

EPBC Act listed koalas

- The koala was listed as a vulnerable species under the EPBC Act on 2 May 2012 after the size of the combined populations was determined to have declined by more than 30% over 20 years. In 2010 the population size of the listed koala was estimated to be 188 000.
- Since July 2014 the Australian Government has mobilised over \$9 million for 70 projects that will rehabilitate, restore and link koala habitat. This includes 44 projects under the Green Army Programme and 26 projects through the 20 Million Trees and National Landcare Programmes.
- During 2016, the Qld Government committed around \$30 million funding (over four years) to protect the koala in southeast Qld, including \$6 million to support koala hospitals, \$1.8 million into research and \$12.1 million over four years with an extra \$2.6 million a year to develop and implement a new koala strategy for koala protection in south-east Qld.
- NSW committed \$10 million over five years (Dec 2016) to acquire koala habitat and to prepare a whole of government NSW koala Strategy with the objective 'to stabilise and then start to increase koala numbers in NSW'. The NSW Strategy is currently being drafted.

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- The NSW Environment Minister requested the Chief Scientist and Engineer review why the koala declined in NSW populations – report released 4 Dec 2016 and is the basis on which the NSW koala Strategy will be developed. This report recommends actions that will be reflected in the NSW koala Strategy.
- NGOs including the Australian Koala Foundation and Friends of the Koala have recently written to National and State Members requesting the recovery plan be finalised as a matter of urgency - this has been reported in national media.

Koalas in Vic and SA – not listed under the EPBC Act

- The management of overabundant koala populations continues to be an issue for the Vic. Government and receives much media attention. As the koala is not listed as a threatened species in Vic. under the EPBC Act, koala management and welfare in Vic. is an issue for the state government.
- Vic. Government has implemented strategies to reduce koala numbers and improve koala welfare (e.g. moved koalas to alternative suitable habitat and reduced breeding by treating healthy females with contraceptives). Experienced veterinarians conducted koala health assessments on koalas captured, and any that are starving or too sick to be released were euthanized to prevent suffering. The Vic. Government advises the Department of their intent prior to any such intervention.
- The proposed National translocation guidelines will aim to address a number of issues which may require movement of koalas across jurisdictions, including managing abundant populations and moving koalas for reasons related to conservation genetics.

Important History

Date	Key decision / action
2009	The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council's endorsed <i>National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009-2014</i> commenced, replacing the first 1998 <i>National Conservation Strategy</i> .
17 Sep 2010	The Senate referred the status, health and sustainability of the koala to the Senate Environment and Communications Reference Committee for inquiry.
Sep 2011	Senate Environment and Communications References Committee tabled their report, <i>The koala – saving our national icon</i> .
Effective 2 May 2012	The combined koala populations of Queensland, New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory were listed as a Vulnerable species under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
Dec 2014	The Australian Government response to the Koala Senate Enquiry was tabled in Parliament.
Dec 2014	Following public consultation, the EPBC Act koala referral guidelines were published.
Commissioned by Dept in 2014 but not released	An independent review of the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy has been conducted and a final report will be published – to steer recovery plan development.
March 2016	Recovery plan Drafting team comprised of representatives from Qld, NSW and the Department was formed and have met regularly to develop the plan.

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Anticipated: 2017	A draft recovery plan available for broader community engagement.
2 May 2018	Statutory deadline for the recovery plan

OFFICE OF THE THREATENED
SPECIES COMMISSIONER

BACKPOCKET BRIEF – ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT
SENATE ESTIMATES, February 2017

Funding for OBP

- Australian Government has invested \$525,000 for emergency intervention biosecurity measures in partnership with the Tasmanian Government as part of the round of Threatened Species Summit projects.
- OBP's are supported through 9 Green Army projects and a project under 20MT. Nine NLP projects are also focussed on native revegetation.
- NESP is conducting two projects focussing on tackling threats to endangered hollow nesting birds in Tasmania valued at \$180,000 and Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation valued at \$103,585.

Progress update

- In January 2017 the OBP recovery team and Tasmanian Government released information in relation to recent above average mortality rates of OBP's in captivity at Hobart Wildlife Centre (Taroona).
- Infection from bacteria is the likely cause of death, not beak and feather disease.
- Since January 1, 16 adult birds have died at the Hobart Wildlife Centre (Taroona).
 - This is 11% of the Taroona population.
 - This is more than the number of deaths in all of 2016.
 - All five separate aviary buildings have had adult deaths.
- 4 nestlings have also been found deceased in the wild population at Melaleuca. It is thought that this is also from the same bacterial infection, possibly spread from the Wildlife Centre.
-

Tasmanian Response

- The Tasmanian Government is responding to the threats by:
 - Cessation of use of sprinklers in flights
 - All water for water bowls and food preparation being brought in from offsite
 - Changing to new seed bags and disposing of old seed
 - Rinsing soaked seed with bottled water
 - Treating water in water bowls with antibiotics
 - Birds looking ill are being treated individually with antibiotics
- Mitigation also taking place in Melaleuca with new seed and water being introduced at feeding tables with strict quarantine measures remaining in place.
- As operators of the facility, the Tasmanian Government is responding to this bacterial outbreak at the Hobart Wildlife Centre.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION DIVISION – **SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEF**

SENATE ESTIMATES, May 2017

Threatened Species Strategy and Threatened Species Commissioner

Budget

- Since the appointment of the Threatened Species Commissioner in 2014, more than \$227 million has been mobilised for more than 1000 projects with threatened species outcomes (**see Attachment A**). The majority of these projects will contribute to improving habitat condition to support threatened species by 2020.
- Achieving the targets in the Threatened Species Strategy relies on mobilising resources through existing Australian Government programs, state and territory governments, the private sector and through community engagement. **Attachment B** has a table of species targeted in the Strategy, and projects contributing to their recovery.
- The Threatened Species Commissioner is supported by a small team within the Department. He also has four informal advisers who provide expert guidance and advice.

Threatened Species Strategy first year report

- The Threatened Species Strategy first year report is on the Department's website (**Attachment C**).
- The report highlights progress in delivering the Threatened Species Strategy.
- Of the 26 targets to be met in the first year of the Threatened Species Strategy, 21 were successfully delivered, with seven targets over achieved.
- The four partially achieved targets will be completed in the coming months. The one incomplete target refers to uptake of the FeralCatScan app. It was designed to maximise uptake of the app and mobilise community support.

Threatened Species Recovery Fund

- On 5 June 2016, a \$5 million Threatened Species Recovery Fund was announced to invest in community grants for local projects that closely align with the targets of the Threatened Species Strategy.
- This included the first nine projects to be funded.
- The Fund also includes a competitive open grant round where applicants from across Australia can apply for funding to protect threatened species.
- The open grant round of the Fund was launched by the Minister and the Threatened Species Commissioner at Healesville Sanctuary on 5 May 2017.
- The Fund will run for 6 weeks and close on 15 June 2017.

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Feral Cat Taskforce

- The Feral Cat Taskforce held its fourth meeting in March 2017, bringing together representatives from state's and territories, the science community and key NGO's.
- The Taskforce was established to build collaborative approaches and drive national momentum for feral cat control, including delivering on the Meeting of Environment Ministers commitment in 2015 to work towards listing feral cats as a pest in each jurisdiction, reporting progress against the targets in the Threatened Species Strategy, and sharing innovative management options for feral cats.
- The next meeting is scheduled for later in the year.

Threatened Species Prospectus

- The Threatened Species Prospectus is an innovative financing tool aimed at mobilising the business sector to co-invest in conservation programmes and deliver biodiversity outcomes.
- The Prospectus includes more than 50 projects developed in consultation with the community, including from zoos, state and territory governments, non-government organisations and committed community groups.
- The Prospectus represents an opportunity to significantly increase investment in conservation. Projects included in the prospectus support the targets in the Threatened Species Strategy.

Key Dates / Processes

Decision/Announcement	Date
Threatened Species Commissioner appointed	2 July 2014
\$2 million secured by the Threatened Species Commissioner for threatened species in Commonwealth National Parks	17 November 2014
\$722,000 in funding for 11 threatened species projects	12 February 2015
Threatened Species Summit held	16 July 2015
Threatened Species Strategy launched with \$6.6 million to support the implementation	16 July 2015
Threatened Species Recovery Fund announced, committing \$5 million to community projects	5 June 2016
First year report released	December 2016
Threatened Species Prospectus launch	20 February 2017
Threatened Species Recovery Fund launch	5 May 2017

Recent Media (Attachment D)

- Big business recruited to fight extinction of endangered animals
Highlights the opportunity for big business to co-invest in programs in the fight against extinction.
- Feral Cats now cover 99.8% of Australia
Outlines feral cat population and density across Australia and highlights the destructive nature of the feral pest animal.
- Further detail on above media at Attachment C

Project examples

Feral cat detector dog protecting mountain pygmy-possums

- **\$140 000** provided for **detector dogs protecting the mountain pygmy-possum and konoom**. Dog and handlers are on the ground and helping to improve trapping practices. Since the dogs have been working, they have **caught and euthanized 56 cats and 37 foxes**. Seeing **more juvenile mountain pygmy-possums and more bandicoots**.

Norfolk Island rodent control expansion to protect green parrots

- Green Parrot numbers continue upward trend with the population now estimated to be around **350-400, an increase from 50-100 in 2013**. 77 chicks (including 35 females) were successfully fledged in 2016. **Mobilised \$300 000** to expand rodent control in and outside of Norfolk Island National Park

Christmas Island feral cat eradication

- **23 000 Eradicat® baits deployed** through the forest during the dry season since 2015. Concurrent with forest baiting, the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife **baited all roads and tracks on the island**. Parks and Wildlife also trapped stray cats around the township, and undertook the annual domestic cat survey. **Provided \$500 000 in funding** through Parks Australia to carry out the eradication in partnership with the community, the local council and mining company on the island.

Western quolls in the Flinders Ranges

- **115 feral cats removed** since Jan 2014. As many as **250 translocated western quolls** now thriving. Government **provided \$55 000 to support euthanising feral cats**.

WA Emergency Baiting

- **Nearly 150 000 hectares of emergency feral cat baiting completed in Western Australia** to protect the Gilbert's potoroo in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve (3 000 hectares) and western ground parrot in Cape Arid National Park (145 000 hectares). Both species listed as priorities in the Threatened Species Strategy. **Ground trapping also removed 7 cats** from critical western ground parrot habitat.

Central rock-rat baiting

- Emergency feral cat baiting (Eradict) was undertaken in August 2016 in the central rock-rat's core habitat to help avoid extinction, supported by a \$220 000 investment through the National Landcare Programme. This will also support plans to transfer some of the rock rats to Newhaven Sanctuary when numbers have sufficiently recovered.

Western Ground parrot - workshop

- A workshop for the critically endangered western ground parrot took place on 30 March 2016. This was in response to recent extensive bushfires which destroyed around 90% of known occupied habitat, increasing the risk of extinction. The workshop identified and prioritised emergency interventions for the species by bringing together experts to provide advice for emergency actions. The Australian Government contributed \$5 000 towards the workshop.

Eastern barred bandicoot

- Community support for the eastern barred bandicoot is high, being the most cited targeted mammal for Green Army projects - with 26 teams contributing towards its recovery. This is on top of over \$695 000 in projects supported through the 20 Million Trees and National Landcare Programmes.

Silver Daisy Bush

- On ground action is well underway for the silver daisy bush, with a project worth \$433 440 funded through the second tranche of the 20 Million Trees Programme's large-scale component, two projects under Round 2 of the Programs to the value of \$200 000, and three Green Army teams undertaking recovery actions for the species.

Fitzgerald's mulla mulla

- One project funded through the second tranche of the 20 Million Trees Programme's large-scale component worth over \$1 million is undertaking recovery actions for the Fitzgerald mulla mulla.

Bilby Festival

- \$40 000 contributed to the Bilby Festival to share knowledge on Indigenous land management and highlight the significance of Indigenous lands for the conservation of the Bilby (80% of bilbies on Indigenous lands).

FUNDING MOBILISED**ATTACHMENT A**

Programme	Number of projects	Funding mobilised
20 Million Trees		
Grant Round 1: 2014-15	50	\$3,940,936
West Melbourne	1	\$5,000,000
Cumberland Corridors Grants Round	13	\$4,565,441
National Service Provider - Tranche 1	22	\$16,320,513
National Service Provider - Tranche 2	10	\$7,286,382
Grant Round 2: 2015-16	63	\$4,903,078
National Landcare Programme		
25th Anniversary Landcare Grants	92	\$1,594,500
Tasmanian Devil Conservation Projects	3	\$3,300,000
National Environmental Science Programme		
Threatened Species Recovery Hub	21	\$30,000,000
Threatened Species Commissioner Projects		
Commonwealth National Parks	10	\$2,000,000
First round of TS Commissioner projects	11	\$722,000
Threatened Species Summit Projects	20	\$6,667,151
National Bilby Festival and Western Ground Parrot Workshop	2	\$45,000
Kangaroo Island and Bruny Island cat eradication	2	\$1,000,000
Threatened Species Recovery Fund*	9	\$900,000
Threatened Species Recovery Fund – Open Round	#	\$4,100,000
Threatened Species Strategy Implementation Projects	8	\$475,885
Marine threatened species initiatives		
Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program	13	\$3,791,877
Raine Island Recovery Project	1	\$400,000
Turtle and Dugong Protection Plan	4	\$5,000,000
Green Army Programme		
Rounds 1-4	642	\$113,462,256
Election commitments	66	11,792,812
Grand Total	1064	\$227,254,830

- Amounts listed are the amounts that have been approved and announced.
- Projects were identified by the funding applicant as having threatened species outcomes and assessed against the criteria for the respective programme round.
- Funding is for a broad range of activities, including threatened species conservation activities.

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- 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.
*These projects are election commitments announced by the Minister. Additional projects will be approved under the Threatened Species Recovery Fund to the value of \$5 million

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

TARGETED SPECIES IN THE STRATEGY AND PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE RECOVERY OF EACH SPECIES

ATTACHMENT BProject funding**20 Birds by 2020**

Targeted species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Norfolk Island green parrot	- \$300 000 on rodent control	R4 – 1 project			Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation	Ongoing parks work		
Mallee emu-wren	- \$100 000 pre-translocation studies for the Endangered mallee emu-wren	R4 – 3 projects	2 projects - Victoria (establishing endangered woodlands) - SA (Murray Mallee) – restoring habitat for 4 EPBC listed birds	- Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM regional funding	Project 1.3 – Managing fire regimes with thresholds to save threatened flora and fauna			
Plains wanderer	- \$100 000 Emergency conservation for the plains wanderer (captive population) Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$20 000 for the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park to plant shrubs and conduct surveys	R4 – 2 projects		10 projects			NSW OEH, Victoria threatened species programs	Zoos Vic, Taronga Zoo
Alligator Rivers yellow chat	- \$450 000 Management of fire, weeds and feral animals in priority areas at Kakadu National Park	R4 – 2 projects			Sub-project: 1.1.1. Adaptive management of fire and feral animals to improve conservation of threatened species in Kakadu			
Night parrot	\$100 000 feral cat grooming trap technology				Project 5.2 Better offsets for threatened species		Qld Government \$400 000	Bush heritage – TSC advocacy

Contact Officer: s22
Telephone: s22

Cleared by (SES level): Gregory Andrews
Telephone: s22
Date: 13 Feb 2017

Targeted species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Helmeted honeyeater	Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$50 000 for revegetation at Yellingbo		2x 20 million trees projects	6 projects				Ongoing captive breeding program at ZoosVIC, Birdlife Australia
Norfolk Island boobook owl	\$300 000 on rodent control	R4 – 1 project			Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation	ongoing parks work		
Hooded plover	\$40 000 in NSW \$45 000 in VIC/SA	R4 – 19 projects		9 projects including the Birdlife Australia Great Ocean Road flagship project – protecting the hooded plover	Project 6.3 Identifying better methods for community buy in			
Eastern bristlebird		R4 – 5 projects		3 projects – Including East Gippsland fox control project	Project 3.2 Action evaluation and on-ground monitoring of threatened species	Ongoing management by Parks Australia in Booderee		
Regent honeyeater		R1-3 -4 projects R4 – 52 projects	R2 – 5 projects	13 NLP projects focussed on habitat restoration in woodlands	Project 5.2 Better offsets for threatened species		\$1 million investment from NSW Conservation Trust	Ongoing Birdlife Australia projects
Orange-bellied parrot	\$525 000 emergency response in partnership with Tas Government	R4 – 9 projects	R2 – 1 project	9 projects focussed on habitat restoration	Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation Project 2.2 \$180 000 towards managing sugar gliders		\$525 000 emergency response in partnership with Tas Government	Ongoing support from recovery team and Wildcare volunteer group
Western ground parrot	1.7 million on baiting program that will also help WGP \$40 000 for cameras at Perth Zoo \$5 000 for workshop	R4 – 2 projects			Project 6.4 – Learning from success and failure in threatened species conservation			Friends of group donations, South Coast NRM, Perth Zoo.
Swift parrot		R4 – 53 projects - Wyong Shire Council (Tuggerah Lakes rehabilitation of riparian habitats)	4 projects R2 – 10 projects	4 projects	- NESP project 2.2 \$180 000 towards managing sugar gliders			

Targeted species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (south-eastern)		R4 – 2 projects - Victoria Trust for Nature (Protecting RTBC habitat in the Wimmera)	- 3 projects including Zoos SA (Cookies planting for cookies)	3 projects including Wimmera CMA (Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery)	- NESP project 1.2 Conserving critical habitat – quantifying effectiveness of recovery actions - NESP project 3.2 Action evaluation and on ground reporting of threatened species			Birdlife Australia (Red-tailed Black Cockatoo recovery program) – partnering with SA and Vic gov, Zoos Vic, UQ, community
White-throated grasswren						- Kakadu Threatened Species Strategy 2014-2024 monitoring - Fire management is undertaken by the Warddeken's indigenous rangers		
Australasian Bittern	Recent environmental water flows, including water supplied by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, are resulting in a small population boom for bitterns nesting in the Barmah-Millewa forest.	R4 – 41 projects	R2 – 3 projects - SE NSW (Connecting and expanding habitat on crown lands in SE NSW)	6 projects				
Golden-shouldered parrot		R4 – 6 projects						The Olkola Aboriginal Corporation, Bush Heritage and landholders are working together with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to implement actions from the recovery plan.
Eastern curlew	Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$20 000 to restore saltmarsh habitat at flyway sites	R4 – 18 projects	R2 – 1 project 1 project – Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor	2 projects – Protecting the ecological values of the Western Port Ramsar site.	Project 6.3 Identifying better methods for community buy in			The Australia Government plays an important role in building international cooperation to conserve migratory birds and is a member of the East-Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership.

Targeted species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Malleefowl	TOTAL – over \$4.6 million plus NESP funding	12 Green Army Projects in WA, SA and VIC working to increase connectivity in mallee habitat Over \$2 million	7 20 million projects connecting mallee habitat – Over \$2.6 million	4 NLP projects focussing on rabbit control, weeding and revegetation \$80 000	Project 3.3, \$11.1 million Adaptive management of malleefowl		NSW targeted species	
Cassowary	The Australian Government has secured over \$10 million in initiatives supporting the southern cassowary Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$150 000 for the northern population of the cassowary (Cape York and Daintree)	R1-3 - 17 projects R4 - 4 projects	R2 - 3 projects	12 projects focussed on connecting habitat				

20 Mammals by 2020

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Black-footed rock-wallaby	\$220 000 for West MacDonnell Ranges cat control \$100 000 Grooming Trap \$320 000 restoring Central Australian water places \$1.7 million Western Shield \$2.3 million total	R4 – 3 teams		\$20 000 Kimberly Nyikina-Mangla Rangers Protecting BF-RW	2 Projects worth \$2.8 million		WA baiting at Kalbarri NP	Indigenous ranger work - Warmu enclosure
Brush-tailed rabbit-rat	\$235 000 Groote Eylandt \$50 000 Kakadu fire and weed management (reintroductions planned) \$285 000 total	R4 – 2 teams						Tiwi Islanders and Hugh Davies visited Canberra
Central rock-rat	\$220 000 for West MacDonnell Ranges feral cat control \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$970 000 total				1 Project worth \$467 875		Partnership with NT gov for baiting	
Christmas Island flying-fox	\$500 000 CI cat eradication \$500 000 total	R4 – 1 team			2 projects worth \$1.7 million	Cat eradication Christmas Island		PhD students
Eastern barred bandicoot	\$120 000 for guardian dogs \$55 000 for gene widening Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$90 000 to support feral cat trapping and community engagement \$600 000 Mulligan's Flat	R4 – 16 teams	R1 – 2 project R2 – 5 Projects		3 projects worth \$4.4 million		VIC gov and Zoos Vic co-funding	
Eastern bettong	\$600 000 Mulligan's Flat \$600 000 total		R2 – 1 Project		2 projects worth \$2.8 million		\$900 000 from ACT government - offset	Private donations campaign
Eastern quoll	\$600 000 Mulligan's Flat \$500 000 to kick-start feral cat eradication efforts on Bruny Island Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$90 000 to support feral cat trapping and community engagement \$1.19 million total				1 project worth \$1.2 million			Mt Rothwell and Mulligan's partnership Rewilding Australia interest

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Gilbert's potoroo	\$1.7 million Western Shield Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250,000 to the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group to create one new secure population \$1.95 million total \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary	R4 – 1 team			1 project worth \$128 000		Emergency WA baiting	
Golden bandicoot	Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250 000 to Martu Traditional Owners to remove feral cats and assist in reintroductions \$1 million total							
Greater bilby	\$1.2 million feral free area in Queensland \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$100 000 grooming traps \$1.7 million western shield \$36 363 for bilby festival \$3.78 million total	R4 – 20 teams			5 projects worth \$5.1 million Includes work at Martu to protect bilbies from cats			
Kangaroo Island dunnart	\$92 000 for goat eradication \$500 000 to kick-start feral cat eradications on Kangaroo Island \$592 000 total	R4 – 2 teams			1 project worth \$411 310		KI cat eradication efforts	
Leadbeater's possum	Leadbeater's Possum Action Plan \$592 000 total		\$100 000 Restoring the Coranderrk Bushland for Victoria's faunal emblems \$1 697 272 Yellingbo and surrounding reserves habitat for endangered faunal species \$99 056 Yellingbo – Habitat restoration for the helmeted honeyeater and leadbeater's possum		2 projects worth \$2.3 million Includes Action Plan projects		VIC Industry Taskforce	

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Mahogany Glider	\$30 000 Habitat connectivity project Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$50,000 to help landholders and community groups improve habitat \$80 000 total	R2 – 1 team R4 – 1 team		\$16 000 Lily Creek habitat protection \$19 600 Insulator Creek Waterway restoration				
Mala	\$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary Election commitment through TS Recovery Fund \$250,000 to Martu Traditional Owners to remove feral cats and assist in reintroductions \$1 million total	R2- 1 teams				Rabbit blitz at feral free area in Uluru kata Tjuta National Park		AWC Scotia enclosure
Mountain pygmy-possum	\$140 000 detector dogs \$140 000 total				2 projects worth \$2.0 million			Previous work done to expand the gene pool – successful
Northern hopping-mouse	\$235 000 Groote Eylandt \$235 000 total						NT doing island wide survey	
Numbat	\$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R4 – 1team	R2 – 1 project	\$19 500 Termite harvesting in Perup Region	4 projects worth \$5.3 million			Perth Zoo wild reintroductions
Western quoll	\$50 000 for cat management in Flinders Ranges \$750 000 Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary \$800 000 total	R4 – 6 teams			3 projects worth \$4.4 million		Considerable investment from WA and SA governments	FAME investment
Western ringtail possum	\$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R4 – 7 teams		\$14 250 Urban Habitat Project				
Woylie	\$1.7 million western shield \$1.7 million total	R4 – 4 teams		\$19 960 Wadderin Sanctuary Feral control	1 project worth \$1.6 million			AWC Scotia enclosure Multiple other enclosures

30 Plants by 2020

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Button wrinklewort						ANBG working on genetics research plus seed collection and conservation work		
Central Australian cabbage palm	Threatened Species Summit Project- \$320 000 to NT Government to manage waterholes where cabbage palms are growing	Four projects to manage buffel grass, collect seed and grow in botanic gardens						
Fitzgerald's mulla-mulla			\$1 015 000 – Greening Aust					
Kakadu hibiscus						ANBG and Aust Seed Bank Partnership sent expert collectors this year to Kakadu NP to collect seed		
Magenta lilly pilly		Six teams improving habitat	\$98 300 to Shortland Wetlands Centre- mid north coast, increasing population by 33%			Work underway to protect the plant at its southern limit in Booderee National Park		

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Matchstick banksia					Project 1.3 – improving fire management for threatened flora and fauna – looking at matchstick banksia's germination response to fire	ANBG working with NSW Gov to collect seed and propagate	Target species under NSW Government's Saving Our Species Program	
Mongarlowe mallee								
Morrisby's gum		Three teams – weed control, monitoring and planting complementary species						
Mossman fairy orchid	Fast tracked re-listing from extinct to critically endangered to ensure highest level of protection under EPBC Act							Australian Tropical Herbarium collection of tissue culture for preserving genetics
Ormeau bottle tree	TS Recovery Fund Election Commitment \$20 000 to Friends of the Ormeau Bottle Tree – to collect seed, protect existing trees and control weeds							
Silver daisy bush		Four teams protecting habitat	\$926 421.82	One 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant \$18 360 to Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group Inc				

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Small purple pea		One team improving habitat				ANBG working on genetics research plus seed collection and conservation work		
Spiny rice flower		Four teams improving habitat	\$75 000 to East Moorabool Landcare Group Inc to improve habitat condition and extent	One 25 th Anniversary Landcare grant – \$20 000 to Western Melbourne Catchments Network for rabbit control at Mt Rothwell				
Vincentia banksia	OTSC working with the TSSC to add to national list					Booderee National Park- growing seedlings to replant into the park	Targeted species under NSW Saving our Species	

PLANT SPECIES WITH NO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACTION AS YET

Priority species	TSC Funding	Green Army	20MT	NLP	NESP	Parks	States / Territories	Other
Ant plant								James Cook University and Australian Tropical Herbarium undertaking research on biological interactions with the golden ant
Black grevillea								
Blue top sun orchid								Orchid Conservation Centre, Melbourne Botanic Gardens – propagating for restoration
Bulberin nut								Working with Macadamia industry and QLD govt on updated Recovery Plan for 4 threatened Macadamia species

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Caley's grevillea								Bahai' Temple Bushcare-protecting Caley's Grevillea in the temple gardens
Fairy bells								
Fleurieu leek orchid								Orchid Conservation Centre, Melbourne Botanic Gardens –propagating for restoration
Glossy-leafed hammer-orchid								A priority species for DPAW
Little mountain palm								Lord Howe Island Board progressing Rodent Eradication Program through EPBC Referrals
Scaly-leaved featherflower								
Shy susan								
Purple wattle								
Silver gum								
Southport heath								
Turnip copperburr								
Whibley's wattle								

Big business recruited to fight extinction of endangered animals

December 31, 2016 9:00pm
JESSICA MARSZALEK

s22 - duplicated in Document 1

S22

Feral cats now cover 99.8% of Australia

s22 - duplicated in Document 1

s22

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION DIVISION – SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEF

SENATE ESTIMATES, May 2017

20 Million Trees Program

Key Facts

- Planting 20 million trees by 2020 to re-establish green corridors and urban forests.
- Funding of \$70 million over six years (2014-15 to 2019-20).
- As at end April 2017, 166 projects valued at \$42.9 million (GST exclusive) have been approved to deliver 13.4 million trees.

Environmental Outcomes

- Approximately 95 per cent of 20 Million Trees projects (including 100 per cent of Service Provider Projects) will support EPBC listed threatened species and/or threatened ecological communities.

Trees planted to date

- As at April 2017 approximately 3 million trees and 2.3 tonnes of seed have been reported as planted and sown.
- Majority of 13.4 million trees contracted will be delivered 2017-18.

Stream	30 June 2016	30 June 2017	30 June 2018	31 Dec 2018
Round One	113,015 (13 projects)	998,767 (42 projects)	-	-
Round Two	-	190,473 (20 projects)	1,027,517 (42 projects)	-
CCC ¹	-	743,754 (13 projects)	-	-
Tranche One	-	-	6,754,950 (22 projects)	-
Tranche Two	-	-	1,931,000 (7 projects)	568,564 (3 projects)
One Tree Per Child ²	-	100,000 (1 project)	-	-
Planet Ark ³	-	-	-	21,000 (1 project)
West Melbourne	-	1,000,000 (1 project)	-	-
Total (13,449,040)	113,015	3,032,994	9,713,467	589,564

¹ Note - Project extensions may be required

² Note - Project variation to delay completion date in process

³ Note - Contract approved, not yet signed

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Date: 10 May 2017

Impacts of Cyclone Debbie

- Cyclone Debbie has caused delays to tree planting projects in the region as well as some tree losses. The Department is working with recipients to determine the extent of the damage.
- For recipients who have been affected by natural disasters, the Department will work with them to complete projects where possible. This may mean some projects do not reach their full planting target.
- The Department accounts for tree losses in planning and contracting of projects. Losses from Cyclone Debbie will not impact on the Government's ability to meet its target of 20 million trees by 2020.

Climate Change

- Service Providers are working to increase resilience of project plantings to climate change. Mixed provenance seed is being used to increase climate resilience. Service providers are subject to make good provisions should their plantings fail.
- Service Providers develop a Climate Adaptation Data Collection and Management Plan for each project to facilitate future research into how native tree species respond in a changing climate.

What methodology will be used to estimate the 20MT Program's contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions?

- Carbon sequestration associated with the growth of trees planted under the 20 Million Trees Program are incorporated into the Australian Greenhouse Accounts, which are reported annually.
- New forest cover, including on 20 Million Tree project sites, is detected annually via Landsat satellite imagery and the associated carbon sequestration is modelled by the Department's sophisticated FullCAM full eco-system model.

How much carbon will be sequestered through the Program?

- A detailed estimate will not be available until the end of the Program. Many things will influence the total sequestration, including location, timing, and scale of revegetation activities.

Is the 20 Million Trees Program's greenhouse gas impact included in Australia's Emissions Projections?

- The 2016 estimate includes projections of environmental plantings, but the impact of the 20 Million Trees program has not been separately calculated.

Program evaluation

- The Department is preparing a mid term program update. It is anticipated that the evaluation will be released later this year, subject to Ministerial approval.

Is the first tree planted as part of the 20 Million Trees Program still alive?

- There is no record of the first tree to be planted under the Program. It is not possible to say with any certainty whether the tree is alive or dead. However, the tree that Minister Hunt planted at the Greening the West of Melbourne project launch on 6 May 2015 was recently confirmed as alive and well.

Background

- The Program has four strategic objectives:
 1. *20 million trees* – 20 million trees and associated understorey planted by 2020.
 2. *Environmental conservation* – by improving the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species.
 3. *Community engagement* – work cooperatively with the community.
 4. *Carbon reduction* – contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Program has two funding streams:
 1. Stream 1 – grants to groups and individuals for tree planting.
 - *117 projects, worth \$9.215 million (GST exclusive) delivering approximately 2.334 million trees*
 2. Stream 2 – contracted service providers, CO2 Australia, Greening Australia and Landcare Australia.
 - *32 projects, worth \$23.607 million (GST exclusive) delivering approximately 9.255 million trees*

Recent Media

- No recent media

Examples of projects under each stream of the 20 Million Trees Program

Competitive Grants

Subtropical Lowland Rainforest Revegetation - Kin Kin Catchment (20MTR2-135) (QLD)

Estimated completion date: 30 May 2018

\$99,848 (GST exclusive) for the Noosa and District Landcare Group Inc to plant 16,880 trees over 4.22 hectares to recreate EPBC listed, Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia & habitat for Southern Penda, Grey Headed Flying Fox, Red Goshawk and Coxen's Fig Parrot.

Landholders, Noosa Council, and Noosa Landcare will contribute \$31,912 of cash and in-kind contributions of to the project

Service Provider Stream

Yellingbo and surrounding reserves habitat for endangered fauna (20MT-GA-19)

Project completion date: 30 June 2018

\$1,697,272 (GST exclusive); 650,000 trees; Victoria

Greening Australia will work with six partner agencies and two friends groups to deliver; 1. Improved habitat quality for the EPBC listed helmeted honeyeater and leadbeaters possum; 2. Increased availability of nesting sites for helmeted honeyeater 3. Increased duration and availability of food resources for those species.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION DIVISION – **SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEF**

SENATE ESTIMATES, May 2017

Green Army Program

Key Facts

KPIs / Deliverables (as per 2016-17 Portfolio Budget Statements, p. 33)

- *Australia's biodiversity, including threatened species, ecological communities and migratory species, and significant heritage places, are identified, conserved and protected.*

Program / Policy outcomes

- Environmental conservation program for 17-24 year olds to train and work in the environment on projects up to six months in length.
- Projects restore native vegetation and heritage sites, protect animal habitats and regenerate wetlands in urban, rural and remote areas.

Key Issues

Program Termination

s22 - material irrelevant to scope

Contact Officer: s22

Telephone: 02 6274s22

Cleared by (SES level): Matthew Dadswell

Telephone: 02 6275 9659

Date: 05/05/2016

s22

Election commitments

s22

Environmental outcomes

- Environmental outcomes are achieved through:
 - Project rounds seeking projects that support recovery of threatened species
 - Project hosts identifying activities in their applications that will contribute to meeting local environmental outcomes
 - Desktop audits confirming activities being done consistent with application
 - Site visits – 10% of projects
 - Monitoring, Evaluation Reporting and Improvement Tool.
- 93 per cent of Project Hosts anticipated their Green Army Project would result in the intended environmental and/or heritage outcomes.
- Treated over 115,000 hectares for weeds, removed over 37,000 cubic metres of debris and planted over 2.5 million plants.

State	Aquatic Ecosystem*	Heritage**	Increase Native Vegetation	Protect Threatened Species***	20MT (R4 Only)
Total	198	181	304	425	37
%	17.29%	15.81%	26.55%	37.12%	3.23%

*Employment outcomes**

s22 - material irrelevant to scope



Projects and Participants

- As at 5 May 2017:
 - 1,267 projects announced (including 119 projects announced during 2016 election)
 - 131 projects are on ground, with a further 975 complete, totalling 1106 projects. 161 projects yet to commence
 - Just over 9,700 participants (excluding supervisors) have been engaged in Green Army.
 - 1677 participants (or 17 per cent) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Media Campaign and social media statistics



WHS



s22

Audits

- As at 5 May 2017, the Department has completed 122 site visits and completed 109 final audit reports.
- The average compliance score for all Departmental audits to date is 93% against the Deed of Standing Offer.
- Issues around non-compliance are mostly due to documentation, such as participant agreements not being completed correctly.

Project examples

Treatment and monitoring of Yellow Crazy Ants in and next to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area **Environmental example**

- Six Green Army teams worked with the Wet Tropics Management Authority
- control and eradicate the yellow crazy ant in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- Baiting, luring and site surveys
- Huge impact on the environment and ensured no bait runoff seeped into the waterways.
- Without the efforts of the Green Army teams, the situation would have become unmanageable.

Restoring rare species habitat at Mulligans Flat and Jerrabomberra Wetlands 2

Environmental Example

Focus: How the project is contributing to the Threatened Species Strategy

- Canberra: Restored Rare Species Habitat at Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary and Jerrabomberra Wetlands
- Aligned with the Threatened Species Strategy, protecting the Eastern quoll and the Eastern bettong.
- Built fences, undertook pest eradication work, planted trees, weeded, wildlife surveys and helped convert a building into an education centre for visiting school groups.
- Helped fulfil higher ecosystem functions, increasing the Eastern bettongs' and quolls ability to scratch and forage, improving water retention in the soil, increasing composting and supporting the threatened box gum woodlands that bettongs and quolls live in.

Recent media

- **The Green Army's final battleground**, The Saturday Paper, Mike Seccombe, 10/12/2016
- **Cuts to Abbott's Green Army killing off our ranger programs, says KLC**, National Indigenous Times, Wendy Caccetta, 21/12/2016
- **Government digital ad spend soars**, Canberra Times, Tom McIlroy, 30/12/2016
- **PM kills off Tony Abbott's Green Army**, Australian Financial Review, Phillip Coorey, 4/12/2016
- **\$400,000 Green Army projects in limbo**, Weekender Herald, Adelaide, Lucy Robinson, 5/01/2017
- **Australia's surprising top Green status and why it's in peril**, Brisbane Times, Brisbane, Latika Bourke, 21/04/2017

The Green Army's final battleground, The Saturday Paper

Points raised in article:

- The map from the federal Environment Department is a Google Earth satellite image of Innisfail in far north Queensland, with several little red dots superimposed on it. Each dot marks the site of a project approved in the 2015-16 funding round for the so-called Green Army.
- The problem is this: the satellite image clearly shows nothing even vaguely like cassowary habitat. One site is bounded a TAFE college, cane fields, and the North Johnstone River. The "riparian vegetation" referred to on the official document is presumably a narrow straggle, a few metres wide, of mangroves along the river's edge. The two other sites are surrounded by houses and lawns. It's not viable habitat; it's suburbia.
- Both the map and the project summaries were sent to *The Saturday Paper* by James Trezise, policy analyst for the Australian Conservation Foundation, to underline a point he's been making about one of the many inadequacies of the Green Army, established with great fanfare in the 2014 budget.
- "These sites are well outside any known cassowary corridors," Trezise says. "There is no way in the world these projects would have benefited cassowaries, and no way in the world that's the best use of money for cassowary conservation."
- Take another example, a project purporting to protect threatened species in Melbourne. It actually involved "stone conservation" at the Old Melbourne Gaol and conservation of the timber deck of the historic barque *Polly Woodside*, as well as "site invigilation as part of birthday events for the *Polly Woodside* (130yrs) and Old Melbourne Gaol (170yrs)". Whatever "site invigilation" is, it clearly has nothing to do with threatened species, or any reasonable understanding of what is meant by environmental management or land care.
- The department told us (ACF) there were 323 Green Army projects benefiting threatened species. "Our review, using very generous criteria, found only about 135 were of genuine benefit. Doing generic weeding around some trees and saying 'that benefits koalas' doesn't count."

Talking points:

Cassowaries

- The map itself is inaccurate and not in fact a map from the Department's website as stated. The project sites superimposed on the map are not Green Army project sites, the project sites occur further west along the North Johnstone River near the Bruce Highway, 9 kilometres from Innisfail.
- Protecting cassowaries is only one part of the project. The overall project aims to revegetate approximately 10,000 trees across 4 hectares on the banks of the North Johnstone River to enrich and extend remnant vegetation.
- The project is helping to restore terrestrial and aquatic corridors for threatened and endangered species including the Cassowary. It will also reduce impacts on downstream estuarine conservation zones and the Great Barrier Reef.

Polly Woodside

- This project was assessed based on information provided by the applicant, and accepted as supporting threatened species outcomes. The project helped improve habitat through weed control and promoting greater conservation awareness of native vegetation.

Threatened species

- There are 642 Green Army projects involving activities aimed at protecting threatened species. These activities help threatened species recover by improving the condition of important habitat areas and include revegetation, threat reduction through weed removal and pest animal management, fencing and installing nest boxes.
- As part of the application process, applicants are required to describe how projects align or contribute to relevant local, regional or national environment or heritage plans, strategies or advice. Applicants must also detail how they will manage and maintain project outcomes following the conclusion of the project.

ARTICLE: Cuts to Abbott's Green Army killing off our ranger programs, says KLC.
National Indigenous Times

Points raised in article:

- Kimberley Land Council - the peak Indigenous body in Western Australia's vast Kimberley says axing the Green Army will have "enormous consequences" for the ranger network in the region.
- For many of our young rangers, this program has provided them with their first opportunity to work on country and care for country. The Green Army has acted as a pathway for young people where there is a deficiency in job readiness, linked to limited education outcomes in remote areas.
- The removal of this funding could have enormous consequences for the Kimberley Ranger Network, from loss of individual jobs to potentially losing entire ranger teams.

Talking points:

- For young Indigenous Australians looking to get involved in the Green Army there are still significant opportunities for young Australians to over the next 12 months. Any young Australians interested in joining the Green Army are encouraged to register on the Department's website or contact their local Green Army service provider.
- Following the program's completion, opportunities for young Australians to improve their job prospects will be available through the Government's Youth Jobs PaTH, which helps young people

gain the employability skills and real work experience they need to get and keep a job.

ARTICLE: Government digital ad spend soars, Canberra Times

Points raised in article:

- The federal government spent a record amount on digital advertising in Australia last financial year. Figures published by the Department of Finance in December showed total government advertising spending for major campaigns cost taxpayers \$174.7 million in 2015-16, the highest levels since 2007-08 and up by nearly \$70 million from the previous year.
- Promoting the now axed Green Army program, a signature environmental legacy of Tony Abbott's government, cost \$3 million in 2015-16, including \$600,000 commitments for television and digital platforms.

Talking points

- At the time of the Green Army recruitment and call for project campaign, the Green Army was an ongoing program and it was appropriate to fund.
- With hundreds of projects yet to roll out, there are still significant opportunities for young Australians to be involved in the program.

Australia's surprising top Green status and why it's in peril, Brisbane Times

Points raised in article:

- An analysis of "green jobs" in five advanced economies ranks Australia as number one in terms of opportunity but the same data shows Australia at the bottom when it comes to job-seeker interest. The study, which also ranked the top five green jobs in each country over 2016, shows that "Green Army participant" ranked number three in Australia in terms of job postings.
- Industry sources said Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's decision to scrap the Green Army program could undermine Australia's favourable ranking in terms of green job opportunity.
- The Green Army, a pet policy of former prime minister Tony Abbott, will wind up in June after it was scrapped by Mr Abbott's successor - Malcolm Turnbull - in last year's budget update.
- However the Green Army's website still prominently calls for potential applicants to register their interest and gives no clear indication on the homepage that the program is to be wound down in just a few months.

Talking points:

- The Green Army Program will close in June 2018, not June 2017 as incorrectly reported.
- It is appropriate that the Green Army webpage still calls for potential applicants - with hundreds of projects yet to roll out, there are still significant opportunities for young Australians to be involved in the program. In addition, the webpage has recently been updated and now specifically mentions the closure of the Program.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Attachment B

Project Tables

- The project fee is \$196,330.37 (GST inclusive) or \$178,482.15 (GST exclusive). The following tables provide a project breakdown by round, state/territory, Service Provider, project location, Host type and investment priority.
- 1145 projects were approved as part of previous project rounds. An additional 122 projects (3 previously uncontracted projects announced as part of 2013 election and 119 projects announced as part of 2016 election) are to be rolled out and completed by 30 June 2018, totalling 1267 projects.

Table 1. Previous Round priorities and success rates

Round	Round Priorities*	Project Applications Received	Successful Project Applications	Success Rate
Round 1	Nil	307	265	86.3%
Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote area and Indigenous outcomes • Threatened Species outcomes 	385	283	73.5%
Round 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Barrier Reef outcomes • Remote area and Indigenous outcomes • Threatened species outcomes 	516	156	30.2%
NDRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental recovery in a natural disaster declared area 	44	44	100.0%
Round 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage outcomes • Outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef • Remote area and Indigenous outcomes • Threatened species outcomes 	697	397	57.0%
Round 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened Species Outcomes 	1251	0	0
Total	NA	3,200	1,145	58.8%

* This column outlines particular priorities that were identified for each round. Applicants were still able to submit project applications that fell outside of these priorities, so long as the project/s were consistent with the round's eligibility criteria, investment priorities and strategic objectives.

Table 2. Approved projects by State and Round

State / Territory	Round 1*	Round 2*	Round 3	NDRR	Round 4	Total (inc. NDRR)
NSW	108	87	59	20	131	405
ACT	1	7	4	0	3	15
VIC	45	34	23	5	50	157
QLD	55	92	30	19	62	258
SA	26	17	4	0	48	95
TAS	16	12	3	0	24	55
WA	14	28	30	0	73	145
NT	0	6	3	0	6	15
Total	265	283	156	44	397	1145*

*There were 69 approved Round 1 projects announced with Round 2. Total does not include a further 122 election commitment projects to be rolled out.

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Telephone: 02 6275 9659
Date: 05/05/2016

Table 3. Approved Projects by Service Provider and State

State / Territory	Campbell Page	CVA	CoAct	Manpower	Workskil	Total
ACT		11		4		15
NSW	98	190	39	78		405
NT		14	1			15
QLD	60	143		55		258
SA		55		9	31	95
TAS		35		20		55
VIC		105	21	31		157
WA		62	63	20		145
Total	158	615	124	217	31	1145*

* Total does not include a further 122 election commitment projects to be rolled out.

Table 4. Approved Projects by Remoteness and State

State / Territory	Inner Regional Australia	Major Cities of Australia	Outer Regional Australia	Remote Australia	Very Remote Australia	Total
ACT	4	11				15
NSW	194	145	48	12	6	405
NT			5	10		15
QLD	89	48	89	19	13	258
SA	41	14	22	13	5	95
TAS	20		35			55
VIC	78	54	25			157
WA	29	34	33	20	29	145
Total	455	306	257	74	53	1145*
Total %	39.74%	26.72%	22.45%	6.46%	4.63%	100%

* Total does not include a further 122 election commitment projects to be rolled out.

Table 5. Approved Projects by Project Host type

Organisation Type	Projects
Community Organisation	16
Commonwealth Government	2
Education and Employment Organisation	8
Educational Institution	10
Employment Provider	10
Environmental Organisation (including Landcare Groups)	276
Heritage Organisation	13
Indigenous Organisation	86
Local Government	376
NRM Organisation	95
Private Individual	4
Service Provider/Nominated Supplier	164
State Government	74
Youth and Education Organisation	8
Youth Organisation	3
Total	1,145*

* Total does not include a further 122 election commitment projects to be rolled out.

Table 6. Approved Projects by Investment Priority

State	Aquatic Ecosystem*	Heritage**	Increase Native Vegetation	Protect Threatened Species***	20MT (R4 Only)
ACT	0	3	7	5	0
NSW	81	62	100	153	9
NT	2	0	3	8	2
QLD	71	36	64	77	10
SA	3	2	36	45	9
TAS	4	12	8	30	1
VIC	19	30	61	45	2
WA	18	36	25	62	4
Total	198	181	304	425	37
%	17.29%	15.81%	26.55%	37.12%	3.23%

* Ramsar Wetlands, water quality improvement or coastal projects

** May include Indigenous cultural heritage and natural World/National Heritage, in addition to built World/National heritage places

*** Threatened species figure is different from total number of threatened species projects. This is because the data was obtained from project applications where applicants could only select one investment priority in their application. This meant projects that had more than one investment priority were unable to provide this information

BACKPOCKET BRIEF –

GREEN ARMY

SENATE ESTIMATES, May 2017

Key messages and outcomes

- Green Army Projects are taking practical actions to address threatened species through activities such as habitat conservation, pest eradication and flora and fauna surveys.
- Overall, **708 projects** (rounds 1-4) involve an aspect **supporting threatened species outcomes**
- Overall, **over \$125 million** through Green Army **for threatened species** outcomes.
- Community participation associated with Green Army projects on threatened species is positive (examples next page)

Election commitments

The Australian Government announced **119** Green Army projects as part of the 2016 election campaign. Of these **66 (\$11,792,812)** contain outcomes for threatened species

Round Four

- In **December 2015** Minister Hunt announced 397 successful projects under **Round Four** of the Green Army.
- Of these, a total of **311 Projects will deliver threatened species outcomes**, including **over 100 that are addressing targeted birds and mammals** under the TS Strategy, and **over 90 that are addressing feral cats**.

Project examples

- Mabi Rainforest Green Army team
 - In September last year I visited the **Wet Tropics** of Queensland to discuss threatened species outcomes, and met with the **Mabi Rainforest Green Army Team**.
 - This fantastic team is working to recover threatened **Mabi Rainforest** (a TEC) which is **habitat for Tree Kangaroos** and threatened species such as the **Queensland Tree Waratah**.
 - Excellent revegetation outcomes, supporting private landholders, working with **Terrain NRM**.
- Bilby project -Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
 - Round 3 project – working with TO's to fence around bilby habitat in the Great Sandy Desert – fencing, fire management, cat management
- Arid Nature Corridor- Arid Recovery SA
 - Plains mouse, burrowing bettong, bilby, western barred bandicoot
 - Teams to undertake feral animal control and habitat improvement works

GREEN ARMY **ROUND FOUR** APPLICATIONS WITH THREATENED SPECIES
OUTCOMES

Species	Number of applications
Swift Parrot	53
Regent Honeyeater	52
Grey-headed Flying-fox	51
Australasian Bittern	41
Koala	40
Spot-tailed Quoll	35
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	27
Southern Brown Bandicoot (Eastern)	26
Growling Grass Frog	25
Australian Painted Snipe	19
Hooded Plover (eastern)	19
Eastern Curlew	18
greater bilby	18
Gouldian finch	17
Malleefowl	17
Downy Wattle	14
Spiked Rice-flower	13
Sydney Pea Bush	12
Superb Parrot	12
Northern Quoll	12
Long-nosed Potoroo (SE mainland)	12
Leafy Greenhood	12
Red Goshawk	11
Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania)	11
Coxen's Fig-Parrot	11
Loggerhead Turtle	11
Green and Golden Bell Frog	10
Dwarf Galaxias	10
Baudin's Black-Cockatoo	10
Orange-bellied Parrot	9
Tasmanian Devil	9
Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	9
Giant Barred Frog	9
Striped Legless Lizard	8
Clear Milkvine	8
Matted Flax-Lily	8
Southern Cassowary	7
Fleay's Frog	7
Clover Glycine	7
Western Ringtail Possum	7
Masked Owl	7

Species	Number of applications
Black-breasted Button-quail	7
Australian Grayling	7
Booroolong Frog	6
Round-leaf Pomaderris	6
Cassowary	6
Golden Shouldered Parrott	6
Spectacled Flying Fox	6
Curlew Sandpiper	6
Buff-breasted Button-quail	6
Murray Cod	6
Hoary Sunray	5
Wedge-tailed Eagle	5
Eastern Bristlebird	5
Macquarie Perch	5
Grassland Earless Dragon	5
Purple Eyebright	5
Spotted-tailed Quoll	4
Southern bell frog	4
Biconvex Paperbark	4
Masked Owl (Tasmanian)	4
Crimson Spider-orchid	4
Dural Land Snail	4
Frankston Spider Orchid	4
Grand Spider Orchid	4
Silver Daisy-bush	4
Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat	4
Magenta Lilly Pilly	4
Purdie's Donkey-orchid	4
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Mt Lofty Ranges)	4
Western Quoll	4
Hale Dwarf Greenhood	4
Jumping jack wattle	4
Three-toed Snake tooth skink	4
Red-lore Whistler	4
Curly Sedge	4
Button Wrinklewort	4
Charmhaven Apple	4
Little Pink Spider-orchid	4
Chalky Wattle	3
Bertya Ernestiana	3
Australian Fairy Tern	3
Phillip Island Wheat Grass	3
Metallic sun orchid	3
Corben's Long-eared Bat	3
Bead Glasswort	3

Species	Number of applications
Purple Crowned Fairy Wren	3
Flat back turtle	3
Bush-tailed Rock-wallaby	3
Green Turtle	3
Ravine Orchid	3
Dorrigo Daisy-bush	3
Red Bopple Nut	3
Mallee Emu-wren	3
Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Mainland)	3
Spotted Tree Frog	3
Western Whipbird (eastern)	3
Stiff White Spider-orchid	3
Golden Sun Moth	3
Stuttering Frog	3
Lord Howe Island Woodhen	3
Coloured spider orchid	3
Lowan Phebalium	3
Trout Cod	3
Clematis fawcettii	3
Milky Silkpod	3
Southern Swamp Orchid	3
Hakea maconochieana	3
Southern Tetraria	3
Woylie	3
Three-leaved Bosistoa	2
Latz's Wattle	2
Small Purple-pea	2
Earp's Gum	2
Black-eyed Susan	2
Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat	2
Mary River Cod	2
Monarto mintbush	2
Lamington eyebright	2
Mount Compass Oak-bush	2
Flinders Worm-lizard	2
Mount Compass Swamp Gum	2
Tammar Wallaby	2
Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren	2
Tufted Plumed Featherflower	2
Crested Shrike-tit (northern)	2
Western Swamp Tortoise	2
Native Jute	2
Lake Eacham Rainbowfish	2
New Holland Mouse	2
Southern pipewort	2

Species	Number of applications
Noisy Scrub-bird	2
a fern	2
Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale	2
Arnhem Land Skink	2
Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby	2
Glossy black-cockatoo	2
Osborn's Eyebright	2
Glossy-leafed Hammer-orchid	2
Painted Honeyeater	2
Toadflax	2
Pale Leek-orchid	2
Waddy	2
Partridge Pigeon	2
Dwarf Bee Orchid	2
Arnhem Rock-rat	2
Dwellingup Synaphea	2
Pink Lipped Spider Orchid	2
South-eastern red tailed black cockatoo	2
Pink-tailed Worm-lizard	2
Bassian Thrush (Mt Lofty Ranges)	2
Plains Death Adder	2
Southern Penda	2
Plains wanderer	2
Large-eared Pied Bat	2
Plum Leek-orchid	2
Yellow-Spotted Bell Frog	2
Pretty Heath	2
Fleurieu Leek Orchid	2
Eastern-barred bandicoot	2
Coast Spider Orchid	2
Australian Native Bee	2
Ghost Spider Orchid	2
False Water Rat	2
Swamp Star Flower	2
Feather-Leaved Banksia	2
Tall Donkey Orchid	2
Central Australian Cabbage Palm	2
Tasmanian Chaostola skipper	2
Central North Burrowing Crayfish (CNBC)	2
Thick Billed Grass Wren	2
Kangaroo Island dunnart	2
White beauty spider orchid	2
Red-tailed phascogale	2
Yellow Chat (Alligator Rivers)	2
Regent Parrot (Eastern Subspecies)	2

Species	Number of applications
Undoolya Wattle	2
Rice Flower	2
Wavy-leaved Smokebush	2
Kangaroo Island echidna	2
Western Ground Parrot	2
Short tongued bee	2
Masked Owl (northern)	2
Australian sea-lion	2
Black-eared Miner	2
Slender Andersonia	2
small helmet orchid	2
Maquarie Perch	2
Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby	2
Marlborough Blue Cycad	2
Bare-rumped Sheath-tail Bat	2
Harrington's Spider-orchid, Pink Spider-orchid	1
Blue Mountain Water Skink	1
Yarra Pygmy Perch	1
Brush sophora	1
collard delma	1
Large-fruit Groundsel	1
Euphrasia bella	1
Brush Tail Rock Wallaby (BTRW)	1
Chuditch, Western Quoll	1
Brush-tailed Bettong	1
Ben Lomond Leek Orchid	1
Forty-spotted Pardalote	1
Collared delma	1
Red Lilly Pilly	1
Angle-stemmed Myrtle	1
Black-footed Tree-rat	1
Keighery's Eleocharis	1
French Island Spider Orchid	1
Yellow swainson-pea	1
Basalt Pepper-cress	1
Star Finch (eastern)	1
Ball Nut	1
Beaked Eremophila	1
Dasyurus geoffroii	1
Newcastle doubletail	1
Rough Shelled Bush Nut	1
Norfolk Island Green Parrot	1
Davies Waxflower	1
Numbat	1
Rusty Rose Walnut	1

Species	Number of applications
Variable Smokebush	1
Sand Grasstree	1
Western barred Bandicoot	1
Sandhill Dunnart	1
False Plumed-Banksia	1
Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider	1
white lipped spider orchid	1
Giant Burrowing Frog	1
Yellow Gnat-orchid	1
Gilbert's Potoroo	1
Broad-leaf Meryta	1
Silver Perch	1
Green and Gold Frog	1
Simson's Stag Beetle	1
Blind Velvet Worm	1
Mahogany Glider	1
Nangetty Grass	1
Slender-billed Thornbill	1
Blue tailed skink	1
Dense Leek-orchid	1
Bomaderry Zieria	1
Dibbler	1
Nightcap Plectranthus	1
Christmas Island emerald dove	1
Norfolk Island Boobook Owl	1
Christmas Island flying-fox	1
Northern Bettong	1
Good's Banksia	1
Barred Galaxias	1
Abbott's booby	1
Onion Cedar	1
Southern Ochrosia	1
Vanderschoors Stag Beetle	1
Dunsborough Burrowing Crayfish	1
Heath Mouse, Heath Rat, Dayang	1
Granite Heath	1
Albatross Mallee	1
Southern Shepherds Purse	1
Illawarra Zieria	1
Grass Conostylis	1
Kamballup Dryandra	1
McDonnell Range Rock-wallaby	1
Cooktown Orchid	1
Christmas Island frigate bird	1
White Flowered Wax Plant	1

Species	Number of applications
Greater Bilby	1
Bilby	1
Spiny Daisy	1
Corybas montanus	1
Spiny Peppercross	1
Yellow Spotted Bell Frog	1
Spiny Rice-flower	1
Yellow-bellied Glider (Wet Tropics)	1
Christmas Island goshawk	1
Purple Copper Butterfly	1
Spotted Galaxias (western subspecies),	1
Lister's gecko	1

- No total provided as some projects address multiple species

BACKPOCKET BRIEF –

20 Million Trees

SENATE ESTIMATES, May 2017

Progress update

- To date the 20 Million Trees Programme has committed **over \$42 million** (GST exclusive) through nearly **160 projects** to deliver more than **12 million trees** that support threatened species (2 example projects at Attachment A below).
- In **March 2016**, the **second tranche of large-scale projects** in the National Service Provider component of the program was announced which included **another 2.5 million trees**. **All ten large-scale projects will provide benefits for threatened species** including the Malleefowl, Regent Honeyeater (targeted birds) and Fitzgerald's Mulla Mulla (targeted plant).
- In **December 2015 Round 2 (grants)** was announced with **63 new projects** providing **outcomes for 73 different threatened species** (listed at Attachment B below).
- This takes the number of projects funded through 20 Million Trees that support EPBC listed **threatened species and communities** to approximately **95%** (including 100% of large scale national service provider projects).
- In Round 2 there are, for example:
 - 10 projects to benefit the **swift parrot**;
 - 5 projects to benefit the **eastern barred bandicoot**; and
 - 5 projects for the **regent honeyeater**.

Summary of 20 Million Trees projects with threatened species outcomes (contributing to the publically announced \$210 million figure)

Stream	Number of projects	Funding committed (GST ex)
Grant Round 1: 2014-15	50	\$3,940,936
West Melbourne	1	\$5,000,000
Cumberland Corridors Grants Round	13	\$4,565,441
National Service Provider - Tranche 1	22	\$16,320,513
Grant Round 2: 2015-16	63	\$4,903,078
National Service Provider - Tranche 2	10	\$7,286,382
Total	159	\$42,016,349

20 MILLION TREES – THREATENED SPECIES EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Project: **Yellingbo and surrounding reserves**

\$1.7m Funded through the 20MT Large scale national service provider component this project is planting **650,000 trees** Benefitting both the critically endangered **Helmeted Honeyeater** and **Leadbeater's Possum** (lowland population). Friends Groups and Greening Australia (GA) working with multiple partners to increase the extent of habitat by 100ha.

(they also received a \$100k grant through round 1 for additional reveg at Yellingbo)

Project: **Avon River Basin project - Wheatbelt NRM**

Fantastic project announced in 20MT Round 2 grants – **\$100,000** – planting **40,000 trees!** will be **engaging landholders** to reduce threats and secure habitat for over **25 EPBC** listed species and communities (including **Numbat, Chuditch, Malleefowl, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Red-tailed Phascogale** and **Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider**) revegetating 50 hectares.

Threatened species targeted through 20 Million Trees Round Two projects

Species	Number of projects
Koala	10
Swift Parrot	10
Spotted-tail Quoll	7
Eastern barred bandicoot	5
Grey-headed Flying-fox	5
Regent Honeyeater	5
Tasmanian devil	5
Giant barred frog	4
Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmania)	4
Australasian Bittern	3
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	3
Growling Grass Frog	3
Malleefowl	3
Southern Cassowary	3
Striped Legless Lizard	3
Black-breasted Button-quail	2
Coxen's Fig-Parrot	2
Green and Golden Bell Frog	2
Mary River Cod	2
Painted Honeyeater	2
Shiny-leaved Condoo	2
Silver Daisy Bush	2
Superb parrot	2
Tiger Quoll	2
Albert's Lyrebird	1
Angle-stemmed Myrtle	1
Australian Lace-lid	1
Australian lungfish	1
Australian Painted Snipe	1
Bacon Wood	1
Bathurst Copper Butterfly	1
Black-eared Miner	1
Black-footed tree-rat	1
Black-throated Finch	1
Booroolong Frog	1
Chuditch	1
Common Mistfrog	1
Corangamite Water Skink	1
Curlew Sandpiper	1
Eastern Bettong	1
Eastern Curlew	1

Species	Number of projects
Eastern Dwarf Galaxias	1
Forty Spotted Pardalote	1
Giant Gippsland Earthworm	1
Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat	1
Latham's Snipe	1
Leafy Greenhood	1
Littlejohn's Tree Frog	1
Long-nosed Potoroo	1
Magenta Lilly Pilly	1
Mary River Turtle	1
Menzel's Wattle	1
Mount Compass Oak Bush	1
Mount Compass Swamp Gum	1
Mt Stuart Ironbark	1
Murray Cod	1
Northern Quoll	1
Numbat	1
Orange-bellied Parrot	1
Red-lored Whistler	1
Red-tailed Phascogale	1
Resin Wattle	1
Smooth-shelled Macadamia	1
Southern Bell Frog	1
Southern Brown Bandicoot	1
Southern Penda	1
Spalding Blown Grass	1
Spiller's Wattle	1
Spotted-tail Quoll (Tasmanian population)	1
Strzelecki Gum	1
Trailing Hopbush	1
White-Throated snapping turtle	1
Yellow Spotted Bell Frog	1

Project examples - detailed

App ID	Project Title	Project Description	Applicant Name	Total (GST inc)	State
20MT-375	Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor - Revegetation for Local Conservation Outcomes	<p>The project will achieve local conservation outcomes in the Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor (TCRC), which has EPBC listed ecological communities and species including: 'critically endangered' Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia, the 'endangered' Mary River Cod and the 'vulnerable' shrub, Quassia.</p> <p>This will be achieved through community involvement in 'best practice' riparian restoration as demonstrated through a large scale and long term revegetation project and field days.</p> <p>The project provides public benefit through protection, increased resilience and connectivity of riparian vegetation, reducing threats to EPBC listed ecosystems and species, and improved water quality entering the Mary estuaries and GSS Ramsar wetland.</p>	BURNETT MARY REGIONAL GROUP FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LTD	\$108,836.20	QLD
20MT-124	Eaglehawk Waterhole - Woodland restoration for nationally threatened species	<p>Eaglehawk Waterhole is a 684 ha former farm, purchased by Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) in late 2013, near the western end of the Little Desert NP. The property includes 510 ha of previously grazed and partly cleared woodland habitat & is a key feeding & roosting site for the nationally endangered SE Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (RTBC).</p> <p>This project will result in the planting & re-creation of a 70 ha woodland habitat corridor across on the property, with an emphasis on food tree species for the RTBC (Brown Stringybark & Buloke) & associated threatened or rare understorey plants.</p> <p>The plants will be grown in the NGT operated community nursery in Mount Gambier, using seed collected from the property with the support of community volunteers.</p>	THE TRUSTEE FOR NATURE GLENELG TRUST	\$107,250.00	SA
20MT-136	Yellingbo-Habitat Restoration for Helmeted Honeyeater & Leadbeaters Possum	<p>Increased habitat availability and improved vegetation condition are urgently required to support remaining populations of the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater and endangered Leadbeater's Possum. Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater (FOHH) and Greening Australia (GA) will improve habitat condition and food availability for these EPBC-listed species across 4.4ha through the delivery of 30,387 plants. We will create 1 km of vegetation corridors to re-connect isolated populations of these species. The restoration program will work together with five partner organisations, and approximately 1000 volunteers over 3 years to deliver ecological outcomes underpinned by explicit habitat modelling and best-practise restoration science.</p>	FRIENDS OF THE HELMETED HONEYEATER INC	\$108,962.33	VIC

App ID	Project Title	Project Description	Applicant Name	Total (GST inc)	State
20MT-256	Yanget Station - Protecting Threatened Flora	This Project aims to re-establish 15 ha of native vegetation in the Northern Agricultural Zone of Western Australia, in a local catchment area which has <2% of vegetation remaining. This revegetation will improve the extent and connectivity of habitat for three threatened flora species on Yanget Station, near Geraldton in Western Australia. This includes connecting together two small sub-populations of the Critically Endangered <i>Grevillea bracteosa</i> subsp. <i>howatharra</i> , and improving an area of potential habitat for the Endangered <i>Chorizema humile</i> and <i>Wurmbea tubulosa</i> . This will also include restoring riparian vegetation along a degraded creekline.	DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE	\$43,560.00	WA

BACKPOCKET BRIEF –
SPECIES SPECIFIC (HIGH PROFILE)

SENATE ESTIMATES, May 2017

SPECIES NOT INCLUDED IN STRATEGY

- The Strategy's 2015/16 Action Plan is the first iteration of the new national approach. The Government has committed to review it annually and update its content where appropriate.
- Wide consultation informed the initial key groups - plants, mammals, and birds. Progress on these will create momentum and build the public profile of Australia's threatened species.
- Species not listed as being targeted in the Strategy will still benefit from the government's new approach to threatened species through activities undertaken under the four key action areas – improving habitat, safe havens, tackling feral cats and emergency interventions.
- Targeted species were chosen for their umbrella benefit to other species. Actions undertaken that protect the targeted species will also benefit a range of species that use the same habitat. For example action taken to protect the cassowary, swift parrot, and regent honeyeater will benefit a range of co-existing plant and animal species.
- In addition, tackling feral cats will protect a total of 124 threatened species.

SPECIES SPECIFIC BRIEFS TO FOLLOW:

1. Carnaby's black cockatoo (Funding breakdown at **sub-section 16**)
2. Swift parrot (Funding breakdown at **sub-section 16**)
3. Koala (WHAM brief at **sub-section 20**)
4. Tasmanian devil
5. Dugong
6. Spotted-tailed quoll
7. Bramble cay melomys
8. Greater glider
9. Giant freshwater crayfish
10. Christmas Island flying-fox

CARNABY'S COCKATOO

- EPBC Status: Endangered
- Bird Action Plan: Endangered
- Main threat:
 - Habitat loss in breeding and foraging habitat
- Species was not selected as a target in the Threatened Species Strategy as it ranked less highly on risk of extinction. Current total population is estimated at 40,000, while the south-eastern red-tailed black cockatoo is estimated at just 1000 birds.
- Carnaby's cockatoo is still a key priority for the Australian Government, which is currently contributing **over \$10.8 million** through the 20 Million Trees, Green Army and National Landcare Programmes. This is in addition to projects delivered by NRM regions, supported by the National Landcare Programme's regional delivery stream.
- One of the key actions in the Recovery Plan for Carnaby's cockatoo is to protect and manage important habitat. This is being achieved through our programs which are helping to create, improve, revegetate and rehabilitate critical habitat.
 - As an example, one project in the northern Swan Coastal Plain Important Bird Area (IBA) is creating priority foraging habitat and improving connectivity between the Gnangara/Yeal Reserves and existing remnant vegetation pockets on private land.
 - In addition, there are multiple projects being funded through the National Landcare Programme's regional funding (Perth Region NRM) that are helping to protect Carnaby's cockatoo.
 - The *Phytophthora Dieback management in Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo habitat* project successfully managed **82.6 ha of critical habitat** for dieback impacts in 2015.
- For examples of other on-the-ground action and funding see **Attachment 4A**.

SWIFT PARROT

Background

- EPBC Status: Critically Endangered
- TARGETED SPECIES IN THE THREATENED SPECIES STRATEGY
- Population size: 2000 in the Bird Action Plan (2010); likely to be considerably less now

Threats

- Predation by sugar gliders
- Habitat loss in breeding and foraging habitat
- Introduced species (bumblebees, starlings)
- Illegal firewood harvesting

Action and investment

- NESP Project worth \$180 000 will focus on tackling threats to endangered hollow nesting birds in Tasmania, including swift parrots.
 - MOST RECENT RESULT – **11 of 40 new artificially cut hollows being used at Murrayfield Station on Bruny Island.** Very promising result.
- Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner participating in emergency meetings to address illegal firewood harvesting.
 - Green Army team redeployed and built hundreds of nest boxes that were installed in affected illegal logging area.
- The Australian Government has invested over \$8 million in 52 projects that will support the recovery of the swift parrot. This is in addition to work underway through NRM regions supported by the National Landcare Programme. Examples:
 - Green Army
 - Tuggerah Lakes rehabilitation of riparian habitats
 - 20 Million trees
 - Berrima Native Vegetation Corridor Expanding local habitat
 - Central NSW – restoring endangered Grey Box Woodlands
 - SE NSW – Connecting and Expanding Habitat on Crown lands
 - National Landcare Programme
 - North West LLS - Natural Environment restoration and rehabilitation
 - South NRM – Waterways and coastal areas
- Validate NSW- NSW Government just announced \$1 million through Saving Our Species to improve habitat on Central Coast and Riverina.

KOALA

- EPBC Status: Vulnerable in NSW, QLD, ACT
- Mammal Action Plan: Vulnerable
- Main threats
 - Habitat loss
 - Dog attacks
 - Road mortality
 - Disease

- Koalas are an iconic species and are, and will continue to be, a priority for the Department. The Government is continuing its commitment to the recovery of threatened species, including the koala, based on the approach of science, action and partnership.
- Since July 2014 the Australian Government has mobilised over \$9 million for 70 projects that will rehabilitate, restore and link koala habitat. This includes 44 projects under the Green Army Programme and 26 projects through the 20 Million Trees and National Landcare Programmes.
- On 27 July, I attended a Koala Roundtable convened by the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council to discuss long term options for sustaining this very important population of koalas.
- The Australian Government is collaborating with state and territory partners to prepare a recovery plan for the nationally listed koala population of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

- The recovery plan will replace the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009-2014 as the major national plan guiding koala conservation across these jurisdictions
- Public consultation on the draft recovery plan will be sought in late 2016.
- As agreed at the fourth Meeting of Environment Ministers in December 2015, the Australian and Victorian governments are jointly leading the development of national koala translocation guidelines that will focus on health, welfare and genetic implications of moving koalas between jurisdictions.
- The proposed translocation guidelines will be developed alongside the recovery plan during 2016 and will be consistent with its conservation objectives.
- The koala is not listed in Victoria and South Australia as populations are large and broadly stable and hence did not meet the listing criteria. In some areas koalas are eating themselves out of suitable foraging habitat and their numbers are being managed by the state governments.

SPOTTED-TAILED QUOLL

- EPBC Status: Endangered (north Queensland and south-eastern mainland) and Vulnerable (Tasmania)
- Mammal Action Plan: Endangered (north Queensland) and Vulnerable (south-eastern mainland and Tasmanian)
- Main threats:
 - Foxes
 - Habitat loss and degradation
 - Inappropriate fire regimes

- A national recovery plan was adopted by the Minister on 2 May 2016 covering all three listed subspecies.
- The Australian Government is providing \$3.62 million towards 23 projects to benefit the spotted-tailed quoll.
- One project under the NESP TSR Hub '*Managing fire regimes with thresholds to save threatened flora and fauna*' is carrying out on-ground field trials to benefit the species in the Gippsland forests of Victoria.
- 32 Green Army teams are also on the ground supporting the recovery of the species.
- These projects are being carried out across the entire range of the species: in QLD, NSW, VIC and TAS.
- Proud of the efforts of the Conservation Ecology Centre in the Otways, VIC who work with the community to train conservation dogs that are about to detect quolls.
- Also in correspondence with the Australian Quoll Conservancy, who have a particular focus on the north QLD sub-species of the spotted-tailed quoll and are dedicated to the conservation of all four of Australia's quoll species.

LEADBEATER'S POSSUM

UPLISTING

- Uplisted from Endangered to Critically Endangered on 22 April 2015, effective 2 May 2015.
- The uplisting follows assessment of new information provided by public nomination to up-list Leadbeater's possum (LBP) to the critically endangered category.
- The uplisting means that the LBP will now receive the highest level of protection under national environment law.
- As part of the assessment, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee consulted experts and invited interested organisations and the wider community to provide comment during a public consultation process.
- The Committee found that Leadbeater's possum is eligible for inclusion in the critically endangered category of the list because, based on a decline in area of occupancy, extent of occurrence and quality of habitat, the reduction in numbers has been and is projected to be very severe. The species is subject to a number of threats, primarily loss of habitat through fire, loss of habitat through timber harvesting, and loss of habitat quality in regrowth forest.

ABOUT LBP

- Victorian faunal emblem. Badly affected by Black Saturday Fires.
- Mammal Action Plan estimate of 40% decline since 2009.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT

- Leadbeater's are a species I am concerned about - working with all the relevant stakeholders.
- Emergency intervention species in Strategy and the Minister committed to an Action Plan for the species.
- The Action Plan outlines the Government's strategy to support the recovery of the Leadbeater's possum and commits:
 - more than \$700 000 to critical research through NESP;
 - \$1.8 million to practical on-ground action and 790 000 trees under 20 Million Trees; and
 - : \$100,000 (GST exclusive) to Zoos Victoria (Zoological Parks and Gardens Board) for the *Restoring the Coranderrk Bushland for Victoria's Faunal Emblems* Project to plant 112,000 trees at Coranderrk Bushland Reserve which will provide breeding populations of these species with suitable habitat to help their recovery.
 - : \$99,056.66 (GST exclusive) to Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc for the 'Yellingbo- Habitat Restoration for Helmeted Honeyeater & Leadbeaters Possum'

Project, to deliver more than 30,000 plants over 4.4 hectares to connect important habitat through best practice restoration science.

: \$1,697,272 (GST exclusive) towards the project *Yellingbo and surrounding reserves habitat for endangered faunal species*. Project will plant 650,000 trees and shrubs to restore high quality foraging and nesting habitat that supports >150 self-supporting individuals of Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum in priority areas of the floodplain of Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

- to review and update the recovery plan for the possum by September 2016.

- Chaired two meetings with broader stakeholder group in October and December and held Indigenous consultation meeting in February.
- Department, DEWLP, John Woinarski involved in drafting the Recovery Plan.
- The recovery plan was made available for a three month public comment period in February and the Department received over 3,700 submissions were received from industry, scientists and the general public.
- The draft recovery plan is under consideration by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, prior to the plan being provided to the Minister of the Environment and Energy for finalisation. It is anticipated that the Recovery Plan will be finalised this year.

TIMEFRAMES

2015	
16 July	Leadbeater's possum announced as emergency intervention species
31 August	<i>Leadbeater's possum Action Plan</i> launched
21 October	1 st Stakeholder Consultation meeting
11 December	2 nd Stakeholder Consultation meeting
2016	
1 February	Indigenous Stakeholder meeting
1-5 February	Whole of Government consultation on plan
19 Feb – 20 May	Public Consultation period – 3700 submissions
31 August	Updated recovery plan due – <u>did not meet</u>
Now	Department is considering 3700 submissions and draft recovery plan is under consideration by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee
	There is no statutory timeframe that the Minister must adhere to when making a decision on the plan.

GREAT FORESTS NATIONAL PARK

- Establishing a National Park in Victoria's Central Highlands is a matter for the Victorian State Government. Leave that decision to the Victorian government.
- As the Threatened Species Commissioner, talk to lots of different stakeholders about actions for threatened species. People have spoken to me about the Great Forests National Park proposal; this is a matter for the Victorian state government.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

- Through Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) across Australia, the Australian Government recognises the need to balance the environmental, social and economic objectives for native forest management.
- I understand that the Australian Government continues to work with the Victorian Government to ensure that the obligations and commitments made under this RFA are honoured. The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for the Australian Government on RFAs.
- My role is to find practical on ground actions that are likely to help secure the future of threatened species.
- Still differing views among non-government organisations, the scientific community, conservation managers and government agencies about next steps.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION DIVISION – SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEF

SENATE ESTIMATES, October 2017

Green Army Program

Key Facts

KPIs / Deliverables for 2017-18 (as per Portfolio Budget Statements, pg 43)

- *Australia's biodiversity, including threatened species, ecological communities and migratory species, and significant heritage places, are identified, conserved and protected.*
- *Green Army Program objectives delivered*

Program / Policy Outcomes

- Environmental action program for 17-24 year olds to train and work in the environment on projects up to six months in length.
- Projects restore native vegetation and heritage sites, protect animal habitats and regenerate wetlands in urban, rural and remote areas.

Budget

- The total Green Army Administered Budget for 2017-18 is \$21.283 million. Expenditure of the appropriation is on track. The standard project fee is \$180, 013.53 (GST exclusive).

	2014-15 (\$m) actuals	2015-16 (\$m) actuals	2016-17 (\$m)	2017-18 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Appropriation	41.463	90.557	74.014	21.283	227.318
Expensed	41.463	90.557	70.133	4.365	206.519
Committed	-	-	3.881	16.918	20.799

Figures as at 31 August 2017

Key Issues

Program Termination

s22 - material irrelevant to scope

Contact Officer: s22
Telephone: 02 6274 s22

Cleared by (SES level): Emma Campbell
Telephone: 02 6274 2501 | s22
Date: 03/10/2017

s22

Election Commitments

s22

Environmental Outcomes

- Environmental outcomes are achieved and monitored through:
 - Project rounds that targeted particular projects, for example, supporting the recovery of threatened species and national disaster recovery
 - Project Hosts identifying activities in their applications that contribute to meeting local environmental outcomes

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- Departmental audits and site visits, for at least 10 per cent of projects, to confirm activities are being completed and are consistent with project applications
- Service Providers reporting on project delivery through the Department's Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Tool.
- 94 per cent of Project Hosts said their Green Army Project resulted in the intended environmental and/or heritage outcomes (Project Host surveys, 30 June 2017).
- Over 144,000 hectares were treated for weeds, over 25,000 cubic metres of debris was removed and over 2.3 million plants were planted.

Employment Outcomes

s22 - material irrelevant to scope

Projects and Participants

- As at 21 September 2017:
 - 1,264 projects contracted (including 116 projects announced during 2016 election)
 - 110 projects are on ground, with a further 1,097 completed, totalling 1207 projects. 57 projects yet to commence
 - Over 10,600 participants (excluding supervisors) have been engaged in Green Army.
 - 1,575 participants (or 15 per cent) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Media Campaign and Social Media Statistics

s22

s22

WHS

s22

Departmental Audits

- As at 21 September 2017, the Department has completed 126 site visits and completed 124 final audit reports.
- The average compliance score for all Departmental audits to date is 89 per cent against the Deed of Standing Offer.
- Issues around non-compliance are mostly due to documentation, such as participant agreements not being completed correctly.

Key Dates / Processes

Decision/Announcement	Date
<i>Projects commenced on ground</i>	<i>29 September 2014</i>
<i>Program closure announced</i>	<i>19 December 2016</i>
<i>2016 election commitment applications closed</i>	<i>30 June 2017</i>
<i>Program ends</i>	<i>30 June 2018</i>

Attachments

Attachment A: Project examples

Attachment B: Recent media

Attachment C: Detailed project information

Attachment A

Project examples

Treatment and monitoring of Yellow Crazy Ants in and next to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Environmental example

- Six Green Army teams worked with the Wet Tropics Management Authority
- Control and eradicate the yellow crazy ant in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- Baiting, luring and site surveys
- The teams determined if areas were free of infestations and controlled identified infestations while ensuring no bait runoff seeped into waterways. Teams completed surveys to declare previously infested areas free of yellow crazy ants.
- Without the efforts of the Green Army teams, the situation would have become unmanageable.

Restoring rare species habitat at Mulligans Flat and Jerrabomberra Wetlands 2

Environmental Example

Focus: How the project is contributing to the Threatened Species Strategy

- Canberra: Restored Rare Species Habitat at Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary and Jerrabomberra Wetlands
- Aligned with the Threatened Species Strategy, protecting the Eastern quoll and the Eastern bettong.
- Built fences, undertook pest eradication work, planted trees, weeded, wildlife surveys and helped convert a building into an education centre for visiting school groups.

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- The habitat maintenance efforts completed by participants helped fulfil higher ecosystem functions by increasing the Eastern bettongs' and quolls' ability to scratch and forage, improving water retention in the soil, increasing composting and supporting the threatened box gum woodlands that bettongs and quolls live in.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Attachment B

Recent media

- **The Green Army's final battleground**, The Saturday Paper, Mike Seccombe, 10/12/2016
- **Cuts to Abbott's Green Army killing off our ranger programs, says KLC**, National Indigenous Times, Wendy Caccetta, 21/12/2016

The Green Army's final battleground, The Saturday Paper

Quotes from the article:

- "The map from the federal Environment Department is a Google Earth satellite image of Innisfail in far north Queensland, with several little red dots superimposed on it. Each dot marks the site of a project approved in the 2015-16 funding round for the so-called Green Army.
- The problem is this: the satellite image clearly shows nothing even vaguely like cassowary habitat. One site is bounded a TAFE college, cane fields, and the North Johnstone River. The "riparian vegetation" referred to on the official document is presumably a narrow straggle, a few metres wide, of mangroves along the river's edge. The two other sites are surrounded by houses and lawns. It's not viable habitat; it's suburbia.
- Both the map and the project summaries were sent to *The Saturday Paper* by James Trezise, policy analyst for the Australian Conservation Foundation, to underline a point he's been making about one of the many inadequacies of the Green Army, established with great fanfare in the 2014 budget.
- "These sites are well outside any known cassowary corridors," Trezise says. "There is no way in the world these projects would have benefited cassowaries, and no way in the world that's the best use of money for cassowary conservation."
- "Take another example, a project purporting to protect threatened species in Melbourne. It actually involved "stone conservation" at the Old Melbourne Gaol and conservation of the timber deck of the historic barque *Polly Woodside*, as well as "site invigilation as part of birthday events for the *Polly Woodside* (130yrs) and Old Melbourne Gaol (170yrs)". Whatever "site invigilation" is, it clearly has nothing to do with threatened species, or any reasonable understanding of what is meant by environmental management or land care.
- The department told us (ACF) there were 323 Green Army projects benefiting threatened species. "Our review, using very generous criteria, found only about 135 were of genuine benefit. Doing generic weeding around some trees and saying 'that benefits koalas' doesn't count."

Contact Officer: §22
Telephone: 02 6274 §22

Cleared by (SES level): Emma Campbell
Telephone: 02 6274 2501 | §22
Date: 03/10/2017

Talking points:

Cassowaries

- The map itself is inaccurate and not in fact a map from the Department's website as stated. The project sites superimposed on the map are not Green Army project sites. The project sites occur further west along the North Johnstone River near the Bruce Highway, nine kilometers from Innisfail.
- Protecting cassowaries is only one part of the project. The overall project aims to revegetate approximately 10,000 trees across 4 hectares on the banks of the North Johnstone River to enrich and extend remnant vegetation.
- The project is helping to restore terrestrial and aquatic corridors for threatened and endangered species including the Cassowary. It will also reduce impacts on downstream estuarine conservation zones and the Great Barrier Reef.

Polly Woodside

- This project was assessed based on information provided by the applicant.
- The project restored heritage gardens at Glenfern, Ellis Stones garden at Como House and Garden, Rippon Lea House and Gardens and Labassa. The work at Old Melbourne Gaol and Polly Woodside was only part of a multi-site project.
- The project helped improve habitat through site preparation and debris removal and promoting greater conservation awareness of native vegetation through a number of community engagement events.

Threatened species

- There are 642 Green Army projects involving activities aimed at protecting threatened species. These activities help threatened species recover by improving the condition of important habitat areas and include revegetation, threat reduction through weed removal and pest animal management, fencing and installing nest boxes.
- As part of the application process, applicants are required to describe how projects align or contribute to relevant local, regional or national environment or heritage plans, strategies or advice. Applicants must also detail how they will manage and maintain project outcomes following the conclusion of the project.

ARTICLE: Cuts to Abbott's Green Army killing off our ranger programs, says KLC, National Indigenous Times

Points raised in article:

- Kimberley Land Council - the peak Indigenous body in Western Australia's vast Kimberley says axing the Green Army will have "enormous consequences" for the ranger network in the region.
- For many of our young rangers, this program has provided them with their first opportunity to work on country and care for country. The Green Army has acted as a pathway for young

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people where there is a deficiency in job readiness, linked to limited education outcomes in remote areas.

- The removal of this funding could have enormous consequences for the Kimberley Ranger Network, from loss of individual jobs to potentially losing entire ranger teams.

Talking points:

- For young Indigenous Australians looking to get involved in the Green Army there are still opportunities to do so this year. Any young Australians interested in joining the Green Army are encouraged to register on the Department's website or contact their local Green Army service provider.
- Following the program's completion, opportunities for young Australians to improve their job prospects will be available through the Government's Youth Jobs PaTH, which helps young people gain the employability skills and real work experience they need to get and keep a job.

Project Tables

- The project fee is \$180,013.53 (GST exclusive). The following tables provide a project breakdown by round, state/territory, Service Provider, project location, host type and investment priority.
- 1,145 projects were approved as part of previous project rounds. An additional 119 projects (3 previously uncontracted projects announced as part of 2013 election and 116 projects announced as part of 2016 election) have been contracted and will be completed by 30 June 2018, totalling 1,264 projects.

Table 1. Previous round priorities and success rates

Round	Round Priorities*	Project Applications Received	Successful Project Applications**	Success Rate
Round 1	Nil	307	265 (123)	86.3%
Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote area and Indigenous outcomes • Threatened Species outcomes 	385	283 (15)	73.5%
Round 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Barrier Reef outcomes • Remote area and Indigenous outcomes • Threatened species outcomes 	516	156 (7)	30.2%
NDRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental recovery in a natural disaster declared area 	44	44	100.0%
Round 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage outcomes • Outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef • Remote area and Indigenous outcomes • Threatened species outcomes 	697	397 (13)	57.0%
Round 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened Species Outcomes 	1251	0	0***
2016 ECs	N/A	116	119**** (3)	100%
Total		3,316	1,264	

* This column outlines particular priorities that were identified for each round. Applicants were still able to submit project applications that fell outside of these priorities, so long as the project/s were consistent with the round's eligibility criteria, investment priorities and strategic objectives.

** Numbers in brackets indicate the number of 2013 election commitment projects contracted as part of that round.

*** Round 5 opened for applications, but was cancelled after the decision to close the program.

**** Includes three 2013 election commitment projects that were previously uncontracted.

Table 2. Approved projects by state and round

State / Territory	Round 1*	Round 2*	Round 3	NDRR	Round 4	2016 ECs**	Total (inc. NDDR)
NSW	108	87	59	20	131	43	448
ACT	1	7	4	0	3	0	15
VIC	45	34	23	5	50	39	196
QLD	55	92	30	19	62	14	272
SA	26	17	4	0	48	4	99
TAS	16	12	3	0	24	7	62
WA	14	28	30	0	73	6	151
NT	0	6	3	0	6	6	21
Total	265	283	156	44	397	119	1264*

*There were 69 approved Round 1 projects announced with Round 2.

**Includes three 2013 election commitment projects that weren't captured in previous rounds.

Table 3. Approved Projects by Service Provider and state

State / Territory	Campbell Page	CVA	CoAct	Manpower	Workskil	Total
ACT		11		4		15
NSW	105	218	45	80		448
NT		20	1			21
QLD	67	150		55		272
SA		56		11	32	99
TAS		42		20		62
VIC		138	21	36		196
WA		64	66	22		151
Total	172	699	133	228	32	1264

Table 4. Approved Projects by remoteness and state

State / Territory	Inner Regional Australia	Major Cities of Australia	Outer Regional Australia	Remote Australia	Very Remote Australia	Total
ACT	4	11				15
NSW	190	187	53	12	7	449
NT			7	12	2	21
QLD	91	54	94	19	13	271
SA	47	19	15	13	5	99
TAS	21	3	36	1	1	62
VIC	93	73	26		3	195
WA	31	39	35	20	27	152
Total	477	386	266	77	58	1264
Total %	37.74%	30.54%	21.04%	6.09%	4.59%	100%

Table 5. Approved projects by project host type

Organisation Type	Projects
Community Organisation	23
Commonwealth Government	2
Education and Employment Organisation	13
Educational Institution	10
Employment Provider	10
Environmental Organisation (including Landcare)	290
Heritage Organisation	14
Indigenous Organisation	89
Local Government	412
NRM Organisation	99
Private Individual	4
Service Provider/Nominated Supplier	185
State Government	102
Youth and Education Organisation	8
Youth Organisation	3
Total	1,264

Table 6. Approved projects by investment priority

State	Aquatic Ecosystem*	Heritage**	Increase Native Vegetation	Protect Threatened Species***	20MT (R4 Only)
ACT	0	3	7	5	0
NSW	81	62	100	153	9
NT	2	0	3	9	2
QLD	71	37	64	77	10
SA	3	2	36	45	9
TAS	4	12	8	30	1
VIC	19	30	61	46	2
WA	18	36	25	62	4
Total****	198	182	304	427	37
%	17.25%	15.85%	26.48%	37.20%	3.22%

* Ramsar Wetlands, water quality improvement or coastal projects

** May include Indigenous cultural heritage and natural World/National Heritage, in addition to built World/National heritage places

*** Threatened species figure here is smaller than the total number of projects identified as supporting threatened species (see Attachment pg 2). This is because the data was obtained from project applications where applicants could only select one investment priority in their application. Projects that have protecting threatened species as a project goal, but not as an investment priority (for which they can only choose one) is not captured.

**** Total number does not include 2016 election commitment projects. Applications for this round were not required to specify investment priorities (unlike for rounds 1-4).

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION DIVISION – SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEF**SENATE ESTIMATES, October 2017**

20 Million Trees Program

Key Facts

- Planting 20 million trees by 2020 to re-establish green corridors, urban forests and threatened ecological communities.
- Funding of \$70 million over six years (2014-15 to 2019-20).
- As at 1 September 2017, 165 projects valued at \$43.4 million (GST exclusive) have been approved to deliver more than 13.5 million trees.
- The third and final funding opportunities under the Program have closed. The announcement of successful projects will occur later in 2017.
- Under Tranche 3 of the Program, available to the Program's three Service Providers, Greening Australia, CO2 Australia, and Landcare Australia, up to \$21 million (GST exclusive) is available for new projects.
- Under Grants Round 3 of the Program, applications were sought from eligible individuals, landholders, community groups, Indigenous groups, non-government organisations and state, territory and local government agencies. Projects may occur on public and private land; in urban, peri urban and regional areas across Australia.

Environmental Outcomes

- Approximately 95 per cent of 20 Million Trees projects (including 100 per cent of Service Provider Projects) will support EPBC listed threatened species and/or threatened ecological communities.

Trees planted to date

- The Program is on track to deliver 20 million trees by 2020.
- Once projects are completed, recipients are required to conduct a plant survival survey to determine the number of trees established through their project. The number of trees established through direct seeding will be determined once recipients have completed their plant survival survey.
- In order to maximise the survival rates of native trees and vegetation, the Program ensures adequate preparatory activities, such as weed removal and seed collecting, are undertaken before plantings take place and that plantings occur at the right time of year.

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Date: 04/10/2017

- Seasonal variability and conditions such as dry winters, can have significant impacts on project outcomes. The Department continues to work with project proponents experiencing project delays due to seasonality to ensure the Program will deliver on the number of contracted trees by June 2020.

Key Dates

Decision/Announcement	Date	Decision maker	Consultation with
Announcement of successful projects under Tranche 3 of the Program	October 2017	Deputy Secretary, Environment Protection Group, Department of the Environment and Energy	20 Million Trees Service Providers – Greening Australia, CO2 Australia, and Landcare Australia
Announcement of successful projects under Grants Round 3 of the Program	November 2017	Minister for the Environment and Energy	Minister for the Environment and Energy

Climate Change

- Service Providers are working to increase resilience of project plantings to climate change. Mixed provenance seed is being used to increase climate resilience. Service Providers are subject to make good provisions should their plantings fail.
- Service Providers develop a Climate Adaptation Data Collection and Management Plan for each project to facilitate future research into how native tree species respond in a changing climate.
- The Department contributed funding to the CSIRO to support a workshop for the development of National Guidelines for Experimental Restoration Plantings to assist practitioners incorporate experimental plantings into their projects,

What methodology will be used to estimate the 20MT Program’s contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions?

- Carbon sequestration associated with the growth of trees planted under the 20 Million Trees Program are incorporated into the Australian Greenhouse Accounts, which are reported annually.
- New forest cover, including on 20 Million Tree project sites, is detected annually via Landsat satellite imagery and the associated carbon sequestration is modelled by the Department’s sophisticated FullCAM full eco-system model.

How much carbon will be sequestered through the Program?

- A detailed estimate will not be available until the end of the Program. Many things will influence the total sequestration, including location, timing, and scale of revegetation activities.

Is the 20 Million Trees Program's greenhouse gas impact included in Australia's Emissions Projections?

- The 2016 estimate includes projections of environmental plantings, but the impact of the 20 Million Trees program has not been separately calculated.

Mid-Program Review

- The Department is preparing a Mid-Program Review. It is expected the review will be released on the National Landcare Programme website later this year, subject to Ministerial approval.

Background

- The Program has four strategic objectives:
 1. *20 million trees* – 20 million trees and associated understorey planted by 2020.
 2. *Environmental conservation* – by improving the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species.
 3. *Community engagement* – work cooperatively with the community.
 4. *Carbon reduction* – contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Program has two funding streams:
 1. Stream 1 – grants to groups and individuals for tree planting.
 - *117 projects, worth \$9.209 million (GST exclusive) delivering approximately 2.329 million trees*
 2. Stream 2 – contracted service providers, CO2 Australia, Greening Australia and Landcare Australia.
 - *32 projects, worth \$23.607 million (GST exclusive) delivering approximately 9.255 million trees*

Recent Media

- No recent media

Project examples

Competitive Grants

Mulloons habitat restoration for threatened species (20MTR2-140) (NSW)

Estimated completion date: 30 June 2018

\$68,760(GST exclusive); 7,200 trees, New South Wales

Once a landscape of interconnected wetland systems, Mulloon Creek now bears eroded gullies. Working collaboratively, this project recreates wetland ecosystems, providing renewed habitat for threatened native fauna. Contributing to Mulloon Institute's (MI) long-term catchment-scale project, Mulloon Community Rehydration Project, this project aims to recreate, improve and protect riparian, aquatic and wetland habitat and conserve nationally listed threatened species.

The Mulloon Institute will:

- Improve aquatic and terrestrial condition and functionality
- Re-vegetate aquatic and terrestrial areas including gullies and tributaries
- Create wildlife corridors and vegetation linkage and improve natural pathways for threatened species

Service Provider Stream

Kanmantoo to Wattle Flat – Increasing connectivity of the endangered Peppermint Box Woodlands of South Australia (20MT-LAL-T2-10)

Project completion date: 31 December 2018

\$429,105.60 (GST exclusive); 123,840 trees, South Australia

By June 2018, Landcare Australia will:

- restore 172 ha of Peppermint Box Woodland community; 152 ha on degraded private land and 20 ha on public land
- improve extent, condition and landscape connectivity of Peppermint Box Woodland community by planting 123,840 trees and associated understorey
- engage five private landholders, four Landcare groups and the Green Army to assist in delivery of 172 ha of revegetation
- implement weed and pest control at six priority locations to improve the ecological health of vegetation communities to a maintenance level for future management.

BACKPOCKET BRIEF –

FOI 171105
Document 27

20 Million Trees

SENATE ESTIMATES, October 2017

Progress update

- To date the 20 Million Trees Programme has committed **over \$42 million** (GST exclusive) through nearly **160 projects** to deliver more than **12 million trees** that support threatened species (2 example projects at **Attachment A** below).
- **All ten large-scale projects announced in March 2016 will provide benefits for threatened species** including the Malleefowl, Regent Honeyeater (targeted birds) and Fitzgerald's Mulla Mulla (targeted plant).
- In December 2015 **63 Round 2 grants** providing **outcomes for 73 different threatened species** (listed at **Attachment B** below).
- In Round 2 there are, for example:
 - 10 projects to benefit the **swift parrot**;
 - 5 projects to benefit the **eastern barred bandicoot**; and
 - 5 projects for the **regent honeyeater**.
- In **August 2017** applications closed for **Round 3 (grants)**. The Department is currently completing the assessment and moderation process. This round includes a focus on threatened ecological communities.

Summary of 20 Million Trees projects with threatened species outcomes (contributing to the publically announced \$228 million figure)

Stream	Number of projects	Funding committed (GST ex)
Grant Round 1: 2014-15	50	\$3,940,936
West Melbourne	1	\$5,000,000
Cumberland Corridors Grants Round	13	\$4,565,441
National Service Provider - Tranche 1	22	\$16,320,513
Grant Round 2: 2015-16	63	\$4,903,078
National Service Provider - Tranche 2	10	\$7,286,382
Total	159	\$42,016,349

20 MILLION TREES – THREATENED SPECIES EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Project: **Yellingbo and surrounding reserves**

\$1.7m Funded through the 20MT large scale national service provider component this project is planting **650,000 trees**. Benefitting both the critically endangered **Helmeted Honeyeater** and **Leadbeater's Possum** (lowland population). Friends Groups and Greening Australia (GA) working with multiple partners to increase the extent of habitat by 100ha.

(they also received a \$100k grant through round 1 for additional reveg at Yellingbo)

Project: **Avon River Basin project - Wheatbelt NRM**

Fantastic project announced in 20MT Round 2 grants – **\$100,000** – planting **40,000 trees!** will be **engaging landholders** to reduce threats and secure habitat for over **25 EPBC** listed species and communities (including **Numbat, Chuditch, Malleefowl, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Red-tailed Phascogale** and **Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider**) revegetating 50 hectares.

Threatened species targeted through 20 Million Trees Round Two projects

Species	Number of projects
Koala	10
Swift Parrot	10
Spotted-tail Quoll	7
Eastern barred bandicoot	5
Grey-headed Flying-fox	5
Regent Honeyeater	5
Tasmanian devil	5
Giant barred frog	4
Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmania)	4
Australasian Bittern	3
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	3
Growling Grass Frog	3
Malleefowl	3
Southern Cassowary	3
Striped Legless Lizard	3
Black-breasted Button-quail	2
Coxen's Fig-Parrot	2
Green and Golden Bell Frog	2
Mary River Cod	2
Painted Honeyeater	2
Shiny-leaved Condoo	2
Silver Daisy Bush	2
Superb parrot	2
Tiger Quoll	2
Albert's Lyrebird	1
Angle-stemmed Myrtle	1
Australian Lace-lid	1
Australian lungfish	1
Australian Painted Snipe	1
Bacon Wood	1
Bathurst Copper Butterfly	1
Black-eared Miner	1
Black-footed tree-rat	1
Black-throated Finch	1
Booroolong Frog	1
Chuditch	1
Common Mistfrog	1
Corangamite Water Skink	1
Curlew Sandpiper	1
Eastern Bettong	1
Eastern Curlew	1

Species	Number of projects
Eastern Dwarf Galaxias	1
Forty Spotted Pardalote	1
Giant Gippsland Earthworm	1
Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat	1
Latham's Snipe	1
Leafy Greenhood	1
Littlejohn's Tree Frog	1
Long-nosed Potoroo	1
Magenta Lilly Pilly	1
Mary River Turtle	1
Menzel's Wattle	1
Mount Compass Oak Bush	1
Mount Compass Swamp Gum	1
Mt Stuart Ironbark	1
Murray Cod	1
Northern Quoll	1
Numbat	1
Orange-bellied Parrot	1
Red-lored Whistler	1
Red-tailed Phascogale	1
Resin Wattle	1
Smooth shelled Macadamia	1
Southern Bell Frog	1
Southern Brown Bandicoot	1
Southern Penda	1
Spalding Blown Grass	1
Spiller's Wattle	1
Spotted-tail Quoll (Tasmanian population)	1
Strzelecki Gum	1
Trailing Hopbush	1
White-Throated snapping turtle	1
Yellow Spotted Bell Frog	1

Project examples - detailed

App ID	Project Title	Project Description	Applicant Name	Total (GST inc)	State
20MT-375	Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor - Revegetation for Local Conservation Outcomes	<p>The project will achieve local conservation outcomes in the Tinana Creek Riparian Corridor (TCRC), which has EPBC listed ecological communities and species including: 'critically endangered' Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia, the 'endangered' Mary River Cod and the 'vulnerable' shrub, Quassia.</p> <p>This will be achieved through community involvement in 'best practice' riparian restoration as demonstrated through a large scale and long term revegetation project and field days.</p> <p>The project provides public benefit through protection, increased resilience and connectivity of riparian vegetation, reducing threats to EPBC listed ecosystems and species, and improved water quality entering the Mary estuaries and GSS Ramsar wetland.</p>	BURNETT MARY REGIONAL GROUP FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LTD	\$108,836.20	QLD
20MT-124	Eaglehawk Waterhole - Woodland restoration for nationally threatened species	<p>Eaglehawk Waterhole is a 684 ha former farm, purchased by Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) in late 2013, near the western end of the Little Desert NP. The property includes 510 ha of previously grazed and partly cleared woodland habitat & is a key feeding & roosting site for the nationally endangered SE Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (RTBC).</p> <p>This project will result in the planting & re-creation of a 70 ha woodland habitat corridor across on the property, with an emphasis on food tree species for the RTBC (Brown Stringybark & Buloke) & associated threatened or rare understorey plants.</p> <p>The plants will be grown in the NGT operated community nursery in Mount Gambier, using seed collected from the property with the support of community volunteers.</p>	THE TRUSTEE FOR NATURE GLENELG TRUST	\$107,250.00	SA
20MT-136	Yellingbo-Habitat Restoration for Helmeted Honeyeater & Leadbeaters Possum	<p>Increased habitat availability and improved vegetation condition are urgently required to support remaining populations of the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater and endangered Leadbeater's Possum. Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater (FOHH) and Greening Australia (GA) will improve habitat condition and food availability for these EPBC-listed species across 4.4ha through the delivery of 30,387 plants. We will create 1 km of vegetation corridors to re-connect isolated populations of these species. The restoration program will work together with five partner organisations, and approximately 1000 volunteers over 3 years to deliver ecological outcomes underpinned by explicit habitat modelling and best-practise restoration science.</p>	FRIENDS OF THE HELMETED HONEYEATER INC	\$108,962.33	VIC

App ID	Project Title	Project Description	Applicant Name	Total (GST inc)	State
20MT-256	Yanget Station - Protecting Threatened Flora	<p>This Project aims to re-establish 15 ha of native vegetation in the Northern Agricultural Zone of Western Australia, in a local catchment area which has <2% of vegetation remaining. This revegetation will improve the extent and connectivity of habitat for three threatened flora species on Yanget Station, near Geraldton in Western Australia. This includes connecting together two small sub-populations of the Critically Endangered Grevillea bracteosa subsp. howatharra, and improving an area of potential habitat for the Endangered Chorizema humile and Wurmbea tubulosa. This will also include restoring riparian vegetation along a degraded creekline.</p>	DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE	\$43,560.00	WA

BACKPOCKET BRIEF

THREATENED SPECIES COMMISSIONER DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

SENATE ESTIMATES, October 2017

Key messages and outcomes

- The Commissioner model has a focus on raising awareness, influencing policy and mobilising resources.
- The model has mobilised resources through the existing NRM program suite, with a focus on getting the best outcomes for threatened species.
 - Threatened species and ecological communities a focus of 20 million trees for example.
- Through consulting with the community and experts in project delivery (ie state governments, NGO's), we have also secured a range of projects through partnerships with state and territory governments that will deliver excellent outcomes for threatened species.
- This series of projects will make a real difference to nationally-threatened plants, animals and ecosystems and directly tackle threats to their survival.
- To date, a total of \$228 million has been mobilised for projects supporting threatened species outcomes

Examples

- Mountain pygmy-possum – \$140 000 **Detector dogs protecting the possum and konoom.** Dog and handlers are on the ground and helping to improve trapping practices. Since the dogs have been working, they have **caught and euthanized 92 cats and 139 foxes.** Seeing **more juvenile mountain pygmy-possums and more bandicoots.**
- Western quoll - \$50 000 to assist with the **reintroduction of western quolls back to the Flinders Ranges.** Last year **37 wild quolls were released** to the Flinders Ranges from Western Australia. Advised that there **may be as many as 250 quolls back in the Flinders Ranges** for the first time in 130 years.
- Eastern barred bandicoot - \$120 000 for **Guardian dogs to protect the species in the wild.** **Two maremma puppies,** Banjo and Mackinnon, **began training in September.** Firstly developing guardian instincts with sheep and being introduced to bandicoot smalls. **A further 5 new dogs have recently begun training.**

- **Mahogany glider** – Green Army project in QLD working with farmers to repair riparian habitat and minimise sediment flowing into reef. Good for farmers, good for gliders and good for reef (you visited)

QUESTIONS – IF ASKED

Q. How did you choose the projects to fund?

- Prior to the Strategy being finalised (i.e the discretionary projects), funding was focused on no regrets action where it was clear that conservation actions were backed by the science, implementable, low risk, value for money and had a measurable on ground positive impact for threatened species.
- The projects identified for funding had merit based on these considerations. Each project meets the strategic objectives of the National Landcare Programme.
- The Threatened Species Strategy (once published) includes principles for prioritisation which also support robust decision making based on a set of principles that will deliver the best outcomes for threatened species.

Q. Why was there not an open round for people to apply for? Why did you pick winners?

- There has been Open Round through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund.
 - 19 projects valued at \$3.1 million were successful in applying for funding.
- For other ad hoc projects, they were identified as priority conservation actions and assessed against prioritisation principles.
- With these projects, it is clear that conservation actions are backed by the science, implementable, value for money and will have a measurable on ground positive impact for threatened species.

BACKGROUND

Selection criteria for discretionary projects

A decision support tool was used evaluate and compare the relative merits of projects. Considerations in the interim tool included:

- Listing status
- Supporting multiple species and ECs
- Scientific community and conservation managers agree on the proposed actions
- Demonstrates practical on-ground conservation actions backed by skills and expertise to deliver outcomes
- Clear and measureable outcomes
- Represents value for money
- Co investment and good governance arrangements
- Increases community awareness around threatened species

This interim tool has been used alongside assessment criteria and grant guidelines that are directly linked to the strategic objectives of the National Landcare Programme.

Swift Parrot

SENATE ESTIMATES, October 2017

Background

- EPBC Status: Critically Endangered
- TARGETED SPECIES IN THE THREATENED SPECIES STRATEGY
- Population size: 2000 in the Bird Action Plan (2010); possibly less now

Threats

- Predation by sugar gliders
- Habitat loss in breeding and foraging habitat
- Introduced species and competition for hollows (bumblebees, starlings)
- Illegal firewood harvesting

Action and investment

- NESP Project worth \$180 000 focuses on on-ground action to tackle threats to endangered hollow nesting birds in Tasmania, including swift parrots.
 - **Significant uptake of new nest boxes and artificially cut hollows on Bruny Island. Estimated boost to the population of more than 500 individuals.**
- Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner participated in emergency meetings to address illegal firewood harvesting.
 - Green Army team redeployed and built hundreds of nest boxes that were installed in affected illegal logging area.
- The Australian Government has invested **over \$8 million in 53 projects** that will support the recovery of the swift parrot. This is in addition to work underway through NRM regions supported by the National Landcare Programme. Examples:
 - Green Army
 - Tuggerah Lakes rehabilitation of riparian habitats
 - 20 Million trees
 - Berrima Native Vegetation Corridor Expanding local habitat
 - Central NSW – restoring endangered Grey Box Woodlands
 - SE NSW – Connecting and Expanding Habitat on Crown lands
 - National Landcare Programme
 - North West LLS - Natural Environment restoration and rehabilitation
 - South NRM – Waterways and coastal areas
 - National Heritage Trust
 - \$500,000 Bruny Island feral cat management project.

- EPBC Status: Endangered
- Bird Action Plan: Endangered
- Main threat:
 - Habitat loss in breeding and foraging habitat

Key Points

Not in the Strategy

- Species was not selected as a target in the Threatened Species Strategy as it ranked less highly on risk of extinction.
 - For example, the current total population of Carnaby's is estimated at 40,000, while the south-eastern red-tailed black cockatoo is estimated at just 1000 birds.

Action and Investment

- Carnaby's cockatoo is still a key priority for the Australian Government, which is currently contributing **over \$9 million** through the 20 Million Trees, Green Army and National Landcare Programmes.
 - This is in addition to projects delivered by NRM regions, supported by the National Landcare Programme's regional delivery stream.
 - The Commissioner's Office has met with passionate local communities and Perth Peel NRM who are making artificial nesting hollows called 'cockatubes'.
- *If pressed on declines*

We work closely with a number of organisations including Birdlife Australia to promote and mobilise funding for practical on-ground habitat improvement.

- We know, for example, that the cockatubes are very successful in creating hollows right now, so we are promoting that new innovative solution.

Additional project examples

- One project in the northern Swan Coastal Plain Important Bird Area (IBA) is creating priority foraging habitat and improving connectivity between the Gnangara/Yeal Reserves and existing remnant vegetation pockets on private land.
- The *Phytophthora Dieback management in Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo habitat* project successfully managed **82.6 ha of critical habitat** for dieback impacts in 2015.

HOODED PLOVER (EASTERN)

Background

- EPBC Status: Vulnerable, Marine
- TARGETED SPECIES IN THE THREATENED SPECIES STRATEGY
- Population size: 2500 (approx.)

Threats

- Nest disturbance (domestic dogs, beach vehicles, human activity, horses)
- Predation by invasive species (feral cats and foxes)
- Entanglement and ingestion of marine debris

Recent news and correspondence (horse training on the beaches)

- We have received enquiries from concerned citizens regarding hooded plovers and horse training in Western Victoria.
- The previous Commissioner had some conversations with his counterparts.
- Different area in the department responsible for managing potential impacts under the EPBC Act. Leave them to respond to significance of the impact.
- IN the mean time we continue to support communities and non-government organisations working to recover the species.

Action and investment

- Hooded plovers are also part of the **\$1 million NESP project** identifying better methods for increasing community involvement with threatened species protection.
- Benefiting from more than **\$600,000 invested in predator control on Bruny Island**
- Also supported NSW government to assess their populations (\$40,000) and supported Birdlife Australia with their 'Improving chick survival project (VIC/SA) (\$45,000)

Other relevant NLP investment

- Coastal management by NRM organisations
 - Waterway and coastal area, South NRM, \$698,400
 - Protecting the ecological values of the Port Phillip Bay - Western Shoreline Ramsar site, Port Phillip and Westernport CMA \$348,800
 - Ecosystems and Coastal Management on Eyre Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board \$3,612,000
 - Corner Inlet Connections, West Gippsland CMA, \$2,022,000
 - Building regional community capacity and engagement, South NRM, \$997,000
 - Building relationships and capacity for Indigenous NRM participation, Port Phillip and Westernport \$589,800

NLP 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants

- A Great Ocean Road Flagship – Protecting the Hooded Plover, \$20,000
- An additional 20 Green Army projects are supporting hooded plovers through targeted rehabilitation of shorebird habitat.