

Four Corners – enquiry 11 June 2019

On background from the Department of the Environment and Energy:

Q. The total number of biodiversity offsets in place across Australia

- There are 232 secured biodiversity offsets in place across Australia, with 307 offset sites. These figures were extracted from the Department's database on 12/06/2019.

Q. Data on how frequently they are checked for compliance and what that entails

- The Department's Office of Compliance monitors compliance within the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and other legislation administered by the Department.
- Monitoring activities include audits, review of annual compliance reports, site inspections, expert advice and access to digital information such as aerial imagery.
- Where non-compliance is found, the Department uses a range of enforcement options. For example, we may issue warning letters or infringement notices, seek court orders for remediation, or prosecute for breaches of the Act.

Q. The number of threatened species under the EPBC Act that have recovery plans?

99.8% of threatened species and ecological communities listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* have a Conservation Advice and/or Recovery Plan in place, guiding our recovery actions.

Q. The number of threatened species under the EPBC Act that are being formally monitored?

The National Environmental Science Program's Threatened Species Recovery Hub examined the number of threatened vertebrate species (excluding marine mammals and marine fish) that are monitored, and found that 74 per cent of Australia's threatened vertebrate taxa receive some monitoring. This research is published in the most recent edition of *Biological Conservation*.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320718318731?via%3Dihub>

Threatened species monitoring is a shared responsibility, including all levels of government. The Australian Government is committed to demonstrating and accounting for intermediate and long-term outcomes and improvements for threatened species from its policies, regulatory and non-regulatory actions.

Q. Details on the funding announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison for the Eastern Quoll on Bruny Island

The Australian Government's election commitment of up to \$1.5 million for Bruny Island recognises its importance as an island refuge for threatened native species including Eastern Quoll, Hooded Plover and Forty-spotted Pardalote (bird) and the importance of protecting this refuge from invasive species and habitat loss. It also recognises that island conservation initiatives, when successful, provide a high return on public investment.

The detailed scope of the project will be developed over the coming months in collaboration with technical specialists, State and local government, scientists, local land managers, the Aboriginal

community, and Bruny Island residents. Activities may include feral cat management and monitoring and community engagement.