

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

Question No: 2
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Yellow Crazy Ants
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 24 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. Last Estimates, the Greens asked about the application from the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) for \$15M over 3 years to eradicate the yellow crazy ants near the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA), and the Minister had received the submission from WTMA but no decision had been made. What is the update?
2. Is there a timeframe for a decision to be made? I understand that the WTMA runs out of money to fight the yellow crazy ants this year.
3. How long has it been since they applied for funding?

Answer:

1. The Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) will continue to receive Australian Government funding until 30 June 2018. WTMA has developed a ten year plan and submitted it outside of existing funding rounds for current programmes. If further funding becomes available it will be considered in the context of the priorities identified in WTMA's ten year plan. In the interim, opportunities to continue eradication efforts can be sought through existing Government programmes such as the Green Army Programme. To date, the Australian Government has invested over \$4 million to control the spread of yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics Region.

The most recent application for funding to assist in the eradication of yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics region was formally received from WTMA under Round Three of the Green Army Programme in 2015. Through this round WTMA secured three Green Army teams. WTMA did not apply under Round Four of the Programme.

2. Please see response above.
3. Please see response above.