

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 2: Indigenous  
**Topic:** Working on Country

**Senator:** Dodson, Patrick

**Question reference number:** 184

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 10

**Question:**

1. The Portfolio Budget Statement for PM&C shows at p 31 that there is a contribution made by the Department of Environment to Outcome 2 by the funding of Indigenous Protected Areas and Ranger Programs. The current funding for IPAs expires on June 2018. Is there an intention to commit to funding for IPAs beyond 2018?
2. What level of funding is planned?
3. Could you provide a detailed breakdown of funding in 2015-16 for Working on Country across North Australia:
  - o For the Kimberley Region of WA
  - o For the Top End of the Northern Territory
  - o For Cape York, Queensland

This information should include the level of funding per ranger group, per IPA, and the number of people employed in each region.

4. Is it still the case that, although the funding sits in Environment, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs signs off on the funding based on PM&C advice?
  - o How does this arrangement work in practice?
5. On the Ranger program the Minister verbally promised a 2-year extension on current funding levels to 2020.
  - o Will that funding extension be confirmed in the budget?
  - o Have those current contracts been extended?
  - o What is the progress on the review of the Ranger Program?
6. Indigenous Protected Areas currently make up 44.6% of Australia's National Reserve System, (according to the PM&C website).

- a) What contribution is the environment portfolio or PM&C making to their security and growth beyond the June 2018 funding period when current contracts expire?
  - b) Is either the Environment Department or Department of PM&C aware of Indigenous groups outside current funding rounds which are interested in developing new Indigenous Protected Areas?
  - c) If so, what plans are there to assist such groups in developing, consulting, planning and declaring new Indigenous Protected Areas?
7. How many Indigenous Protected Areas are currently dealing with the management of threatened species across Australia?
8. The government has a stated priority of dealing with feral cats. How is the government working with Indigenous Protected areas to manage and control feral cats around Australia?
9. The majority of both Indigenous Protected Area contracts and Indigenous Ranger contracts nationally were previously funded for five year periods with mechanisms for annual reporting and review with some limited exceptions. These are the contracts currently due to expire at the end of June 2018.
- o Given the success of both of these programs as reported by the Government's own review is there an intention to issue another set of five year contracts when current contracts expire?
  - o If not, why is the government reverting to a set of shorter term contract extensions for these highly successful initiatives?

**Answer:**

1. The Commonwealth Government has committed \$74.1 million over five years from 2013 to 2018. The Commonwealth Government is currently reviewing funding of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) as part of a broader review of the National Landcare Program. Any announcement regarding future funding of the IPA programme will be made following the current review.
2. See answer to Question 1.
3. Refer to Attachment A. Working on Country and Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding agreements include contracted Full Time Equivalent employment numbers which are used to negotiate wage funds for each year's project plan. IPA funding agreements do not require project proponents to stipulate the Full Time Equivalent numbers, for this reason, employment figures are not included in the attached table for the IPAs.
4. IPA projects are managed by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), but are funded from the Natural Heritage Trust which is administered by the Minister for the Environment and Energy. All funding decisions under the programme, including variations to funding contracts, are approved by the Minister for the Environment and Energy or his approved departmental delegate. The funding agreements have been established in accordance with the IPA programme guidelines.

PM&C administers the funding agreements in accordance with the IPA programme guidelines, which were approved by the then Minister for the Environment. The programme guidelines cover the period 2013-2018. Payments are made following completion of milestones under the funding agreement. PM&C assesses completion of milestones and advises the Department of the Environment and Energy. Milestone payments are released by the Department of the Environment and Energy on receipt of advice from PM&C.

5.

- Funding for Indigenous Rangers is currently provided under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy; Job, Land and Economy Program 2.1 which is an ongoing appropriation to PM&C. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has discretion to make decisions in relation to funding within the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. Therefore, the funding extension does not need to be confirmed in the Budget. On 13 March 2017, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, wrote to all affected Indigenous Ranger groups to advise them of his decision to extend funding through to 2020.
- PM&C is working with Ranger groups to formalise new funding agreements.
- There are currently no reviews of the Commonwealth Government's Indigenous Ranger programme planned or under way. However, two projects are being developed to improve PM&C's delivery of the Ranger programme:
  - A project that will develop a framework to improve the effectiveness of future Ranger projects
  - A cost analysis project that will inform development of a more consistent approach to funding future Ranger projects.All Ranger projects will be assessed individually in the second half of 2017 as part of the process to extend the Ranger programme funding to 2019/2020.

6.

- a) PM&C is aware there is interest from stakeholders in growing the number of Indigenous Protected Areas.
- b) Any decisions regarding the future of the IPA programme are being considered in the context of broader review of the National Landcare Program.

7. In 2014-15, over 75 per cent of IPAs reported monitoring or managing threatened species. In addition, nearly 50 per cent targeted feral herbivores and over 30 per cent feral cats or pigs.

8. Feral cat management is a key priority in the Commonwealth Government's Threatened Species Strategy. The Commonwealth Government supports Indigenous Protected Areas and Indigenous Ranger groups to deliver feral cat management activities through five year tranches of funding of these programmes.

- IPAs and Indigenous Ranger programmes directly contribute to addressing the:
- eradication of feral cats from five islands;

- 10 feral cat free mainland exclosures established;
  - best practice feral cat control established across 10 million hectares of open landscapes; and
  - best practice feral cat control implemented in two million hectares of Commonwealth land.
9. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, has committed to extend funding for Indigenous Rangers until 2020. PM&C is working to formalise this commitment through funding agreements Future funding of the IPA programme will be made following the review of the National Landcare Program.

Attachment A

**Ranger Funding - Kimberley region (WA), Top End (NT) and Cape York (QLD) (GST EXCLUSIVE)**

| Proponent                                      | Project Name  | 2015-16 Expenditure | Programme | Contracted Indigenous Positions | State / Territory |
|--|---|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Anindilyakwa Land Council                      | Anindilyakwa Rangers  | 1,132,240           | WOC       | 12                              | NT                |
| Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation               | Djelk Rangers   | 1,786,080           | WOC       | 24                              |                   |
| Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation                | Dhimurru Rangers  | 913,120             | WOC       | 12                              |                   |
| Djabulukgu Association Incorporated            | Njanjma Rangers   | 515,700             | WOC       | 6                               |                   |
| Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation      | Jawoyn Rangers  | 357,960             | WOC       | 7                               |                   |
| Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation     | Yirralka Rangers  | 2,658,382           | WOC       | 42                              |                   |
| Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association        | li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers                                  | 1,323,570           | WOC       | 19                              |                   |
| Milingimbi Outstations Progress Resource Assoc | Crocodile Islands Rangers                                       | 1,129,081           | WOC       | 10                              |                   |
| Northern Land Council                          | All Northern Land Council Indigenous Ranger Program WOC funding | 4,502,689           | WOC       |                                 |                   |
|  | Garngi Rangers  |                     | WOC       | 3                               |                   |
|  | Mardbalk Sea Rangers  |                     | WOC       | 7                               |                   |
|  | Wanga-Djakamirr Rangers (Arafura Swamp Ranger Groups)           |                     | WOC       | 10                              |                   |
|  | Gurruwiling Rangers (Arafura Swamp Ranger Groups)               |                     | WOC       |                                 |                   |

|                                    |  |           |     |    |     |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----|----|-----|
|                                    | South-east Arafura Catchment Rangers (Arafura Swamp Ranger Groups) |           | WOC |    |     |
|                                    | Gumurr Marthakal Rangers   |           | WOC | 9  |     |
|                                    | Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers   |           | WOC | 6  |     |
|                                    | Mimal Rangers  |           | WOC | 6  |     |
|                                    | Numbulwar Numburindi Amalahgayag Injung Rangers                    |           | WOC | 4  |     |
|                                    | Garawa Rangers   |           | WOC | 5  |     |
|                                    | Waanyi-Garawa Rangers  |           | WOC | 5  |     |
|                                    | Yugul Mangi Rangers  |           | WOC | 7  |     |
|                                    | Malak Malak Land Management  |           | WOC | 6  |     |
|                                    | Bulgul Land and Sea Rangers  |           | WOC | 4  |     |
| Roper River Landcare Group         | Mangarrayi Rangers   | 311,610   | WOC | 3  |     |
| Thamarrurr Development Corporation | Thamarrurr Rangers   | 1,429,370 | WOC | 15 |     |
| Tiwi Land Council                  | Tiwi Islands Marine Rangers  | 258,670   | WOC | 4  |     |
| Warddeken Land Management Limited  | Warddeken Rangers  | 1,728,210 | WOC | 19 |     |
| Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation      | Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program (Warnbi)                          | 413,196   | WOC | 7  |     |
| Werenbun Aboriginal Corporation    | Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program (Werenbun)                        | 199,674   | WOC | 3  |     |
| Carpentaria Land Council           | Gangalidda-Garawa Rangers  | 1,099,445 | WOC | 6  | QLD |
|                                    | Gangalidda-Garawa Rangers (Normanton)                              | 463,705   | IAS | 5  |     |
| Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation  | Kaanju Ngaachi Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers (Chuulangun) Rangers      | 183,123   | WOC | 3  |     |

|  |   |           |     |    |    |
|--|---|-----------|-----|----|----|
| Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation                | Yirrganydji Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers   | 106,700   | IAS | 2  |    |
| Djunbunji Ltd                                    | Mandingalbay Yidinji Rangers  | 840,100   | WOC | 7  |    |
| Girringun Aboriginal Corporation                 | Girringun Land and Sea Rangers  | 1,181,330 | WOC | 11 |    |
| Gunggandji Aboriginal Corporation                | Gunggandji Land and Sea Rangers   | 490,000   | WOC | 5  |    |
| Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation         | Eastern Yalanji Rangers   | 707,580   | WOC | 8  |    |
| Kalan Enterprises                                | Kalan Rangers   | 792,050   | WOC | 9  |    |
| Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council               | Kowanyama Rangers Aboriginal Lands Project  | 699,380   | WOC | 5  |    |
| Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council                  | Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers   | 1,005,530 | WOC | 9  |    |
| Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council                | Nanum Wungthim Land and Sea Rangers   | 794,210   | WOC | 4  |    |
| Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council         | Apudthama Northern Peninsula Area Indigenous Rangers  | 463,020   | WOC | 15 |    |
| Torres Strait Regional Authority                 | All Torres Strait Regional Authority Indigenous Ranger Program WOC funding (14 ranger groups) | 6,557,450 | WOC | 45 |    |
|  | Torres Strait Indigenous Ranger Program   | 2,000,000 | NHT |    |    |
| Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation                | Lama Lama Rangers   | 1,433,755 | WOC | 18 |    |
|  |   | 370,545   | IAS |    |    |
| Yuku-Baja-Muliku Land Owner and Reserves Limited | Yuku Baja Muliku Caring for Country Program   | 627,940   | WOC | 6  |    |
| Kimberley Land Council                           | All Kimberley Land Council Indigenous Ranger Program WOC funding                              | 7,092,590 | WOC |    | WA |
|  | Uunguu Rangers  |           | WOC |    |    |

|   |                                      |         |     |    |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------|-----|----|--|
|   | Wunggurr Rangers                     |         | WOC | 5  |  |
|   | Ngurrara Rangers                     |         | WOC | 10 |  |
|   | Paruku Rangers                       |         | WOC | 5  |  |
|   | Balangarra Rangers                   |         | WOC | 6  |  |
|   | Bardi Jawi Rangers                   |         | WOC | 10 |  |
|   | Karajarri Rangers                    |         | WOC | 7  |  |
|   | Gooniyandi Rangers                   |         | WOC | 6  |  |
|   | Nyul Nyul Rangers                    |         | WOC | 8  |  |
|   | Kija Rangers                         |         | WOC | 2  |  |
|   | Nyikina Mangala Rangers              |         | WOC | 7  |  |
| Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong<br>Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal<br>Corporation (MG Corp) | Aboriginal Rangers for Reserve 31165 | 503,730 | WOC | 4  |  |



**IPA Funding - Kimberley region (WA), Top End (NT) and Cape York (QLD) (GST EXCLUSIVE)**

| <b>Proponent</b>                               | <b>Project Name</b>             | <b>2015-16 Expenditure</b> | <b>Programme</b> | <b>State / Territory</b> |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Anindilyakwa Land Council                      | Anindilyakwa IPA                | 222,240                    | IPA              | NT                       |
| Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation               | Djelk IPA                       | 278,800                    | IPA              |                          |
| Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation                | Dhimurru IPA                    | 256,240                    | IPA              |                          |
| Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation     | Laynhapuy IPA                   | 386,900                    | IPA              |                          |
| Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association        | Yanyuwa IPA                     | 208,500                    | IPA              |                          |
| Marthakal Homeland Resource Centre Association | Gumurr Marthakal IPA            | 300,600                    | IPA              |                          |
| Northern Land Council                          | Wardaman IPA                    | 171,000                    | IPA              |                          |
|  | South East Arnhem IPA           | 100,000                    | IPA              |                          |
| Warddeken Land Management Limited              | Warddeken IPA                   | 348,840                    | IPA              |                          |
| Carpenteria Land Council                       | Nijinda Durlga (Gangalidda) IPA | 193,700                    | IPA              | QLD                      |
| Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation              | Kaanju Ngaachi IPA              | 271,700                    | IPA              |                          |
| Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation                 | Taleroo Consultation IPA        | 138,800                    | IPA              |                          |
| Girringun Aboriginal Corporation               | Girringun IPA                   | 161,000                    | IPA              |                          |
| Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation       | Eastern Kuku Yalanji IPA        | 183,120                    | IPA              |                          |
| Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation    | Mandingalbay Yidinji IPA        | 144,600                    | IPA              |                          |

|   |  |           |     |  |
|---|--|-----------|-----|--|
| Torres Strait Regional Authority                                  | All Torres Strait Regional Authority IPA funding | 200,000   | IPA |  |
|   | Warraberalgal and Porumalgal IPA                 |           | IPA |  |
|   | Pulu IPA   |           | IPA |  |
|   | Warul Kawa IPA                                   |           | IPA |  |
| Wellesley Island Land and Sea Social Economic Development PTY LTD | Thuwathu-Bujimulla (Wellesley Islands) IPA       | 232,166   | IPA |  |
| Wik Projects Ltd  | Wik Way and Kugu Consultation IPA                | 128,100   | IPA |  |
| Kimberley Land Council  | All Kimberley Land Council IPA funding           | 1,859,600 | IPA |  |
|   | Balanggarra IPA                                  |           | IPA |  |
|   | Bardi Jawi IPA                                   |           | IPA |  |
|   | Karajarri IPA                                    |           | IPA |  |
|   | Dambimangari Saltwater IPA                       |           | IPA |  |
|   | Paruku IPA                                       |           | IPA |  |
|   | Warlu Jilajaa Jumu IPA                           |           | IPA |  |
|   | Wilinggin IPA                                    |           | IPA |  |
| Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd  | Yawuru IPA                                       | 127,000   | IPA |  |
| Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corp.                                | Uunguu IPA                                       | 270,750   | IPA |  |