

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 159

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Green Army participants

Proof Hansard page: 77

Senator GALLACHER asked:

Senator GALLACHER: With the 100 projects, how many Green Army participants would have been involved?

Ms Jakszewicz: Typically there are nine participants and one team leader.

Senator GALLACHER: And you have done 100 of those successfully?

Ms Jakszewicz: Correct.

Senator GALLACHER: Geographically spread?

Ms Jakszewicz: Correct, but we do not work in the Northern Territory.

Senator GALLACHER: Is there any state that is doing it better or is it evenly spread around the country?

Ms Jakszewicz: There are some in all states that we operate in.

Senator GALLACHER: So we would take that on geography or population? How would you work it?

Ms Jakszewicz: I cannot give you the exact numbers.

Senator GALLACHER: Have you got 12 in each state?

Ms Jakszewicz: No. It would not be equal by state. Some states have got larger than others.

Senator GALLACHER: Perhaps on notice you could just give us the geographical spread of it. Is there one area that is more successful than others and is that in line with what you expected when this program started? An 'army' indicates more than nine people and a team leader 100 times. An army would be several thousand, I would have thought.

Question: 159 (continued)

Answer:

Landcare Australia-Manpower are a joint Service Provider in the Green Army programme for all jurisdictions other than the Northern Territory. A total of 217 projects have been allocated to Landcare Australia-Manpower to date, with 100 having been completed. The geographic distribution by state of the Landcare Australia-Manpower Green Army 217 projects is presented below in Table 1.

NSW	36%
QLD	26%
VIC	14%
TAS	9%
WA	9%
SA	4%
ACT	2%

Table 1: State distribution of 217 Green Army projects allocated to Landcare Australia-Manpower at 28/10/2016

Prior to commencing the programme, we anticipated that the allocation of projects would be reasonably consistent with each state's percentage of Australia's total population, with some variation reflecting current work opportunities for young people in each state.

The relatively higher allocation of Tasmanian projects and the allocations in Western Australia and ACT are reasonably consistent with our expectations. Our current allocations in NSW and Queensland are slightly higher than originally expected, but also reflect the large amount of work that we have undertaken with Project Hosts developing and supporting projects in those states.

The relatively lower proportion of projects in Victoria and South Australia partially reflects the competitive activity of other Green Army programme Service Providers in those states. For example, one of the Service Providers operates in South Australia only.

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Question: 160

Division/Agency: Landcare Australia Limited

Topic: Green Army

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

Provide an update on the effectiveness of the Green Army Programme particularly in rural and regional Australia.

Answer:

Questions and requests for information on overall programme effectiveness should be directed to the Department of the Environment and Energy which administers the programme. There are a number of Service Providers contracted to deliver the Programme (of which Landcare Australia are one).

In regard to Green Army projects that Landcare Australia manages, below is a summary of metrics since the start of the Programme until September 2016. (Note this data includes regional and urban projects, and is partially based on information uploaded into the Department of the Environment and Energy's reporting system, MERIT. It relates to Landcare Australia's 100 completed projects and 49 projects in progress, as at September 2016.

There have been 244 000 seedlings planted, weed control across 4 100 hectares, 342kg of native species seed sown, 35 500 plants propagated and 589 kilometres of fencing installed. In addition, there has been 240 community engagement events and activities hosted, and 80 fauna, pest and weeds surveys completed.

The programme extends beyond environmental impacts and provides training and skills development for young people. In regard to future employment and training, over 44 per cent of total participants have gone on to employment or further study. Over 10.5 per cent of participants were Indigenous.