



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Senator Anne McEwen
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on the Environment,
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator McEwen,

On the 19th February 2008 Senator Macdonald, appearing in his capacity as a member of the Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, asked the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts the following question which appeared on page ECA 64 and 65 of the transcript.

Senator Macdonald - As I say, I would have an even money bet on your assessment as against the ANAOs....- could you indicate to me in actual dollar figures what the state governments in all of the states have contributed to the NHT,

(a) in cash terms and

(b) in -kind terms

and in relation to (b) could you indicate what in-kind work it was and who actually costed it? I will take your word that in the NAP they gave equal cash.

You haven't got those answers.

The question was taken on notice (Question number 25) and a response was submitted to the Committee. In our response we indicated that not all figures had been formally accepted and further analysis has indicated that some of the figures required revision. We have also received more up to date information from some states and the revised response includes information to 31st March 2008.

The revised response is attached for your information.

Yours sincerely

Alex Rankin
First Assistant Secretary
Land and Coasts Division

16 July 2008



**Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications,
Information Technology & the Arts**
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Additional Budget Estimates 2008-2009, February 2008

Outcome: 1

Question No: 25

Division/Agency: Natural Resource Management Programs Division

Topic: Natural Heritage Trust

Hansard Page ECA: 64/65

Senator Macdonald asked:

As I say, I would have an even money bet on your assessment as against the ANAOs....- could you indicate to me in actual dollar figures what the state governments in all of the states have contributed to the NHT,

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Answer:

State and Territory Governments contribute a significant amount of cash and in-kind support to regional investment under the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT).

The Australian Government has been advised of at least \$638 million of in-kind contributions and \$79 million of cash contributions from all jurisdictions since the 2002-03 financial year. However, figures are not yet available in all jurisdictions for all financial years and the final total will be significantly higher. A state/territory and yearly breakdown is available in the attachment.

In-kind work undertaken varies in each state. Examples include on ground work (such as revegetation, drainage, pest management baiting programs, and rearing and releasing of biological control agents), capacity building activities (such as providing education, increasing awareness, and providing access to information), administrative support, scientific support, and policy support.

In general, in-kind activities are identified following a request to state agencies and NRM bodies to identify projects which meet NHT objectives. The request is sent by the Joint Steering Committee (with equal representation from the Australian Government and the relevant State/Territory). The Joint Steering Committee then determines which activities are suitable for in kind matching. Costings are done by the regional bodies or state agencies and in most cases returned to the Australian Government following state audit processes.

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In South Australia for example, state agencies and regional NRM bodies provide potential projects to the South Australian Department of Water, Land, Biodiversity and Conservation (DWLBC). Projects considered to be suitable for state matching are then forwarded to the Australian Government for assessment.

State agencies and regional NRM bodies provide DWLBC with quarterly financial reports for each project. DWLBC then provide an audited financial acquittal certificate to the Australian Government identifying agreed matching funding investment.

State/Territory Cash and In Kind Matching for Regional Investment under the Natural Heritage Trust (to 31 March 2008)

Northern Territory							
Regional Funding	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Northern Territory - In Kind	0	10,000,000	18,603,000	21,450,000	20,865,000	12,742,133	83,660,133
Northern Territory - Cash	0	0	0	0	0	26,064	26,064
Northern Territory - Total	0	10,000,000	18,603,000	21,450,000	20,865,000	12,768,197	83,686,197
Australian Government Contribution	3,600,000	3,250,000	6,110,000	7,351,225	6,595,455	6,787,920	33,694,600

Australian Capital Territory							
Regional Funding	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
ACT - In Kind	0	2,263,896	1,980,145	1,070,370	2,469,983	916,730	8,701,124
ACT - Cash	0	0	0	0	1,007,229	168,760	1,175,989
ACT - Total	0	2,263,896	1,980,145	1,070,370	3,477,212	1,085,490	9,877,113
Australian Government Contribution	800,000	970,000	1,337,500	974,930	1,480,070	1,275,000	6,837,500

Queensland							
Regional Funding	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Queensland - In Kind Total	0	24,332,036	31,737,460	27,138,076			83,207,572
Queensland - Cash Total	0	0	421,153	514,030	2,477,420	1,472,590	4,885,193
Queensland - Total	0	24,332,036	32,158,613	27,652,106	2,477,420	1,472,590	88,092,765
Australian Government Contribution	0	26,830,735	26,091,362	25,860,971	27,153,573	21,808,801	127,745,442

South Australia							
Regional Funding	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
South Australia - In Kind Total	0	25,243,263	25,834,364	16,191,946	16,378,209	16,666,392	100,314,174
South Australia - Cash Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Australia - Total	0	25,243,263	25,834,364	16,191,946	16,378,209	16,666,392	100,314,174
Australian Government Contribution	8,800,000	6,421,554	11,890,553	15,607,872	14,151,442	11,377,610	68,249,031

Tasmania							
Regional Funding	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Tasmania - In Kind Total	0	5,580,264	7,425,338	7,009,691	6,025,170	6,025,170	32,065,633
Tasmania - Cash Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tasmania - Total	0	5,580,264	7,425,338	7,009,691	6,025,170	6,025,170	32,065,633
Australian Government Contribution	0	6,856,685	9,765,000	3,885,000	9,831,492	3,662,508	34,000,685

Victoria							
Regional Funding	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Victoria - In Kind Total	15,200,000	10,829,000	22,280,000	23,041,254	23,229,000	24,628,367	119,207,621
Victoria - Cash Total	7,500,000	385,000	0	0	0	0	7,885,000
Victoria - Total	22,700,000	11,214,000	22,280,000	23,041,254	23,229,000	24,628,367	127,092,621
Australian Government Contribution	22,700,000	11,214,000	22,280,000	23,041,254	23,229,000	24,628,367	127,092,891

Western Australia							
Regional Funding	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Western Australia - In Kind Total	61,002,625	35,422,876	33,630,995	25,235,473	27,825,490	27,561,511	210,678,969
Western Australia - Cash Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Australia - Total	61,002,625	35,422,876	33,630,995	25,235,473	27,825,490	27,561,511	210,678,969
Australian Government Contribution	18,936,785	5,268,516	18,030,950	24,528,818	19,783,068	18,474,094	105,022,231

New South Wales							
Regional Funding	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
New South Wales - In Kind Total							
New South Wales - Cash Total	0	8,386,566	21,673,101	35,172,570			65,232,237
New South Wales - Total	0	8,386,566	21,673,101	35,172,570			65,232,237
Australian Government Contribution	0	32,784,912	29,761,675	33,333,132	25,740,058	32,190,273	153,790,050

Note 1: Some states have not provided details of their matching contributions. Totals may be understated where figures are not available.

Note 2: Totals include estimates.

Note 3: Some figures provided by states/territories have not yet been reviewed and verified by the Australian Government.

LEGEND

Figures not available
Pro rata estimate
Estimate