Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2010

Outcome: 1 Question No: 19

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: Parks Australia Division

Topic: Fox control in Booderee National

Park

Hansard Page ECA: 64 (26/5/10)

Senator ABETZ asked:

Senator ABETZ—Congratulations on the success of the program. Can you talk to one of your officers who, hopefully, has been there for a while about the inter-baiting and whether they discovered fox carcasses on a regular basis. I would be interested in that information and wish them every success in wiping them out.

Mr Cochrane—Thank you.

Senator ABETZ—What sorts of traps do they use, by the way?

Mr Cochrane—I might have to take that on notice, my apologies.

Answer:

Over the past 10 years a very high level of fox control has been achieved at Booderee National Park through the use of the poison 1080 (sodium monoflouroacetate). 1080 is the only poison registered for use in fox control and is particularly toxic to dogs and foxes. It generally takes around four hours to be effective so fox carcases are rarely, if ever, found. Baits are buried at a depth of 15 cm on a system of 120 bait stations distributed throughout the Park at monthly intervals.

Recently, the Park has invested in remotely operated infra-red cameras to better target fox control effort. These cameras are positioned in a number of strategic locations throughout the Park where foxes are likely to traverse. The cameras are checked for images regularly and if a fox is detected then the area is targeted with 1080.

The efficacy of the Parks fox control program is reflected in the increase in abundance of a range of species known to be adversely affected by fox predation, such as long-nosed bandicoots, brushtail possums, pied oystercatchers and eastern bristlebirds.

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Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2010

Outcome: 1 Question No: 20

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: Parks Australia Division

Topic: Indigenous Protected Areas

Hansard Page ECA: 69 (26/5/10)

Senator WORTLEY asked:

Senator WORTLEY—Are you able to do a state-by-state breakdown of the IPA program?

. . .

Mr Cochrane—Unfortunately, I do not have that in quite the form that you would probably want, so can I take that on notice, but could I also refer you to the department's website, because we maintain all of that data currently with fact sheets on each Indigenous protected area, maps and so on.

Answer:

A state-by-state breakdown of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) Program is summarised in the table and illustrated in the map below.

| State | No. Declared IPAs | No. IPA Consultation and Co-Management Projects | Total No. of IPA projects | Total Approved Funding 09/10 |
|--------|----------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| WA | 3 | 9 | 12 | \$1,821,436 |
| QLD | 5 | 8 | 13 | \$1,106,000 |
| NT | 8 | 9 | 17 | \$2,632,800 |
| SA | 6 | 3 | 9 | \$973,526 |
| NSW | 4 | 6 | 10 | \$672,000 |
| VIC | 5 | 2 | 7 | \$397,050 |
| TAS | 8 | 0 | 7 | \$610,000 |
| TOTALS | 39 | 37 | 76 | \$8,212,812 |

