

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS**

**PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO**

**Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Outcome: 1**

**Topic: Tree of Barcaldine**

**Senator: MCGAURAN**

**Question reference number: 18**

**Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 49-52, Tuesday 19 October 2010**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Mr Wood**—The government provided \$2.6 million through the Better Regions Program.

**Senator McGAURAN**—\$2.6 million.

**Mr Wood**—The project as a whole was \$6.8 million. ...

**Senator McGAURAN**—Could you supply me the basis on which the \$2.6 million was given in the first place?

**Mr Carmichael**—It was an election commitment, Senator. First government policy.

**Senator McGAURAN**—But beyond the commitment there was a reason why it was.

**Senator Sherry**—I will take it on notice for the minister.

**Number of pages: 1**

**Answer:**

The Government made an Election Commitment in October 2007 to fund the Barcaldine Tree of Knowledge Project.

The project, funded under the Better Regions program to meet the Election Commitment, was to preserve the remains of the heritage listed Tree of Knowledge (root-ball, trunk and limbs) and build an appropriate Memorial at the original site of the tree in Barcaldine to house the preserved tree.