

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: SRM 02 – Revised as at 9 February 2010

Division/Agency: Sustainable Resource Management Division

Topic: Caring for our Country - expressions of interest

Hansard Page: 20 (19/10/2009)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—Of the \$60 million that was spent this year on projects, how many of them were approved as an expression of interest?

Mr Thompson—My recollection is that we called for expressions of interest only for the large projects, and the camels one was the only one.

Senator SIEWERT—It was the only large project?

Mr Thompson—It was the only large project funded and the only one that was to be progressed through the expression of interest process.

Senator SIEWERT—How many expressions of interest did you receive?

Mr Thompson—I cannot recall the exact number of expressions of interest we received for large projects, but there were a number of them. There certainly were not hundreds. It was around the order of nine or 10, to my recollection, but we can give you that answer on notice, Senator.

Answer:

18 expressions of interest in large-scale proposals, seeking total funding of \$652.2 million, were received through the 2009-10 Caring for our Country business plan. Three proposals addressed feral camel management and 15 proposals addressed other issues. The successful feral camel management project being undertaken by Ninti One Ltd (the financial management company for the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre) will receive a total Australian Government investment of \$19 million over four years.