




2021 PROJECT PHOENIX

Investment in Ecological Restoration & Conservation






"Investment into the structure and function of the native seed industry has been a key issue for at least two decades. The recent national bushfire crisis has highlighted that if we are to ensure viable conservation and future efforts to undertake large scale and continued bushfire restoration, as well as the need to address future landscape resilience, the native seed and plant supply sector is not currently in a position to respond at the scale required."

<https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/projectphoenix/>

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"Native seed represents growth, potential and hope, which is why Project Phoenix has an emphasis on practical action. We must ensure future bushfire recovery can be undertaken with the confidence of having a strong seed and native plant supply sector to support it."

This strategic project includes the planning and mobilisation of key activities in the native seed and plant sector, as well as the development of a self-sustaining sector, supporting Indigenous groups, regional communities and landholders".

<https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/projectphoenix/>

Introduction

As part of the national response to the 2019-20 bushfires, Project Phoenix received \$5m in initial funding from the Federal Government under its Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery program for a strategic program to build and secure native seed and plant supply for landscape restoration, recovery and resilience in bushfire-affected areas and other vulnerable landscapes. This project ("Project Phoenix") is led by an external steering committee that includes the Council Heads Australia Botanic Gardens, Greening Australia, CSIRO, Australian Seedbank Partnership, Australian Network Plant Conservation, Australian Tree Seed Centre, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, RIAWA, Greenlife Industry Australia, Society Ecological Restoration Australia and Australian Land Conservation Alliance.

KG2 was commissioned to report on three key questions as parts of the whole of Project Phoenix:

- 1. What is the volume of and demand for native seed in Australia?**
- 2. What is the extent of public and government investment in restoration in Australia?**
- 3. How much government funding has historically been provided for conservation seed banks, botanic gardens and herbariums in Australia?**


The first of these questions is covered in a separate report.

The current report deals with questions 2 and 3 which have been addressed with desktop research and telephone surveys to create datasets for the provision and receipt of investment/funding for restoration/rehabilitation and conservation of endangered plants species.

A separate companion spreadsheet details the results of the research detailing funding for government and non-government organisations for restoration, rehabilitation and threatened plant species in the last financial year and compares it to five years ago (or as close as possible).

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of cherry blossoms. The left half is darkened, while the right half is in full color, showing delicate pink and white flowers with green leaves and brown branches.

Overview & Summary



"Despite the many uses for native seed, there is uncertainty around what, where and when different types of seeds will be needed, where these can be sourced from, in what quantity and quality, and at what price. This makes it difficult for businesses to invest in physical assets, research and development (R&D), quality processes, systems or staff."

*A Strategy for the Australian Native Seed Sector, 2021, ACIL Allen (for Project Phoenix)
<https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/3.01summary.pdf>*

The Approach

- Two approaches were used for the study: a survey by telephone and a desktop search of information on the web to locate as many relevant funded projects as possible.
- The desktop research is described and summarised in the Funding Study section of this report. A separate spreadsheet is available listing each funded project located in the study.
- The desktop study is robust, and while undoubtedly other data would be uncovered with further work, it presents a good overview of the funding situation.
- The results of the telephone survey are presented in the survey section of this report.
- The sample size of the phone survey is generally small and so the results should generally be regarded as qualitative and indicative. That said, it does provide useful insights.
- The telephone survey totalled 82 completed surveys. Of this, 71% were not for profit organisations, such as landcare groups. This is a reasonably sized sample from which conclusions can be drawn.



Summary Responses to the Brief

Desktop Research

- Extensive desktop research with phone verification as required was conducted to assess the extent and value of the investment in ecological restoration/rehabilitation and single species conservation.

Telephone Surveys

- KG2 contacted a wide range of government and non-government contacts to get their views and experiences on funding provided or received for either restoration/ rehabilitation or conservation projects.
- At 71%, the majority of those who completed the survey were not for profit groups, such as Landcare.
- Other community groups and volunteers were 13% of the respondents. That is, a total of 84% of respondents were not for profit or community groups.
- State (5%) and local government (4%) combined to 9% of the sample. The Commonwealth Government was absent.
- Overwhelmingly, respondents thought there was insufficient investment in ecological restoration and rehabilitation and in single plant species conservation.
- A total of 91% said there was not sufficient funding for restoration and rehabilitation.
- A smaller total of 76% said there was not sufficient funding for single species plant conservation.
- There appears to be a wide divergence of views on funding and grants. It is inferred that some organisations are more adept at obtaining funding and express satisfaction. At the other pole, there was concern at the level of funding, the grant application approval process and the policy framework for the allocation of grants and priorities.



Estimates of Funding

It was very difficult to accurately estimate the total value of funding or the amount received. Issues that contribute to making this hard include:

- The total size of the sector is unknown and varied. It will be different each year in terms of organisations, the projects, and the value of funding.
- Organisations may be involved in both restoration/rehabilitation and conservation and the line between these may be blurred.
- The value of a program may be large, but the amount may include multiple elements and it was almost impossible to identify the amounts that are attributable to each part. For example, funding for a project may include restoration or rehabilitation, but may also include infrastructure.
- Many organisations or individuals are not willing or able to identify the amount of funding made or received.
- There was not always documentation of how funds were used.

It is also important to note that the brief was to compare the provision or receipt of funding in 2020-21 to five years earlier (2015-16). However, it became clear during the desk research that this was almost impossible to do with reasonable precision for reasons including:

- Timelines for projects varied wildly, many operated over multiple years, reporting was spasmodic, and the available data did not fall neatly into financial years. While we collected and reported all information we found in the history, the entries may be over various points of time.
- The recent/past year amounts are not directly comparable. The apparent often large increases that were documented may be affected by availability of data, improved reporting of restoration and conservation in recent years, and greater visibility of recent projects.
- In the telephone survey, many respondents could report about current projects but did not have any information about older events and their impressions of increased or decreased funding was based on their experience, which would not necessarily reflect funding in the overall sector.
- Data was often not available on funders' web sites for five years ago. It is not possible to tell if this is because the information has been removed, or reflects an actual absence of funding for that period.
- Some funders are yet to publish funding information for 2020/21.
- The detail given by funders varied greatly, resulting in difficulties in assessing the eligibility of some projects.



Detailed Survey Results

a. Desktop Funding Research

Intensive investigation of funding of restoration/rehabilitation and conservation projects funded or received funding in the public and non-government sectors.



Why the information from this project is important

- Funding from government, industry, clients and philanthropists underpins the restoration and rehabilitation sector.
- The funding mechanisms and amounts are not well understood across the sector.
- This study provides valuable insights and data, forming a base from which the scope of funding, recipients, funding bodies, and locations can be viewed.
- The opinions of those in the sector gives valuable pointers to how the systems are viewed and operating.
- The information can be applied to assist the sector in obtaining funding, to help coordinate the sector, and to advocate for improvements in the funding systems and the extent of funding.

Summary of Desktop Funding Study

KG2 undertook web-based research to locate details of funding and funding bodies for ecological rehabilitation, restoration, single plant species conservation and for seed banks, botanic gardens, and herbariums. This section presents the findings, methods and some observations.

A separate spreadsheet is available listing each funding grant identified during the study.

Background

The Australian native seed market is an active but largely invisible market with limited data available or collated on volume, demand or investment by the government and the private sectors. This section of the project aimed to create two datasets (datasets 2 and 3) focused on the investment (current and historical) for the restoration and conservation of native vegetation and seeds.

Dataset 2: Investment in Restoration

No known dataset can show how much government or private investment has been made to the restoration and native seed sector. While Project Phoenix has a small dataset, this dataset has not been validated. Moreover, there are likely significant investments by government and private sectors in restoration that have not been recorded in existing datasets. Therefore, the aim was to create a dataset of the investments provided by the Australian and state governments and the private sector to restoration and native seed.

Key research question: *What is the extent of public and government investment in restoration in Australia?*

Desired outcomes from dataset 2:

- The monetary investment provided for restoration and native seed in and over the past five years
- Monetary investment by the government
- Monetary investment by the private sector

Dataset 3: Funding for Conservation seed banks, botanic gardens, and herbariums

There is no known dataset of the funding for conservation seed banks, botanic gardens and herbariums provided by the Australian government or private sector investors. The intention was to create a dataset that identifies the monetary investments of government and private companies to conservation seed banks, botanic gardens, and herbariums across Australia.

Key research question: *How much government funding has historically been provided for conservation seed banks, botanic gardens, and herbariums in Australia?*

Desired outcomes from dataset 3:

- Identify the funding for conservation seed banks for botanic gardens and herbariums
- Identify the history of government funding over the last decade
- Identify the history of private sector funding over the last decade

This report will contain an overview of the research methodology used to develop each dataset, a summary of the results for each dataset, general issues faced during data collection and opportunities for the future.

Context – Whole of Study

We undertook a mixed-methodological approach for data collection for both datasets 2 and 3, which included:

- Desktop research
- Direct contact to collect data
- Telephone interviews

The data collected was from a wide cross-section of organisations in government (all levels), not-for-profits, private sector aggregators (profit and not-for-profit), NFF, mining and relevant grower groups.

Summary of Desktop Funding Study - Methodology

Desktop research was the primary data collection method for both datasets 2 and 3. We conducted telephone interviews to inform the desktop research and datasets further. Telephone interviews also provided some feedback on actual and perceived outcomes regarding funding. This section of the report addresses the desktop work.

It is important to note that although the brief was to compare the provision or receipt of funding in 2020-21 to five years earlier (2015-16), it became clear doing this research that this was an almost impossible task as the timelines for projects varied wildly, many operate over multiple years, reporting was spasmodic, and the available data did not fall neatly into financial years. As a result, we collected all the results and have reported it into history that could be over various points of time.

Dataset 2

- The research and data collected investigated investment and funding provided by the states and territories of Australia, the Commonwealth, and the private sector for restoration. The areas covered in data collection included investment for restoration/ native seed sector in 2015/2016 and 2020/2021 (years in between were recorded if available or if data for the predetermined years were not available), how much invested, what / why the money was invested.
- The specific data collected included the following information:
 - Funding body
 - State
 - Type (type of funding body, i.e., government)
 - Year
 - Funding program
 - Length of the project (years)
 - Recipient
 - Type (Type of recipient, i.e., Landcare)
 - Project
 - Project description
 - LGA/location
 - Amount (\$)
 - No. Trees (number of trees planted)
- Data was collected from the public domain using government websites, annual reports, company websites, grant award reports, media releases and newspaper articles. In addition, we gathered data on investments from the private sector by searching corporate sponsor pages on not-for-profit organisations such as GreenFleet or government websites to find private companies who contributed to funding restoration activities.
- Examples of key search words used to collect data included 'restoration', 'revegetation', 'tree planting', 'rehabilitation'. Examples of search terms/phrases included *"funding provided to plant trees in NSW"*, *"funding for revegetation in NSW"*, and *"Government funding tree planting Australia"*.

Dataset 3

- The investment from a government department and agencies (all levels) and the non-government sector into conservation seed banks, botanic gardens and herbariums was collected. The information recorded during data collection was the same as dataset 2.
- Data was collected from the public domain, including but not exclusive to government websites, annual reports, budget papers, media releases, and business plans.
- During research for dataset 3, information was found that reported the number of seeds in a seed bank or collection, which was subsequently recorded and located in the attached spreadsheet.

Summary of Desktop Funding Study - Summary of Results & Research Challenges

This section summarises the funding provided by the government and private sectors for both datasets 2 and 3. In addition, we outline the challenges and limitations of creating each dataset.

Dataset 2: Investment in Restoration/Rehabilitation

Overview of funding provided by state government institutions provided to organisations within the state/ territory (NSW, QLD, VIC, WA, SA, ACT, NT).

NSW appeared to have the greatest number of projects funded of all the states/ territories. However, this may have been due to NSW making publicly available data compared to other states. Obtaining data on funding amounts for restoration or native seed projects for NSW was relatively easy compared to the other states and territories. However, greater investment by the NSW government for restoration, revegetation and native seed conservation arose from the bushfires in NSW.

The research uncovered funding provided in NSW was almost exclusively by NSW Environment Trust, with the NSW government directly funding a further three of the recorded projects. We found 130 projects funded in NSW for restoration and native seed activities. In 2019/20-2021, we found 64 projects funded. In 2016-2018 there were six projects financed, and in 2015-2016 there were 60 projects funded. The average funding amount increased from \$313 063 in 2015-2016 to \$1 437 343 in 2019/20-2021. We found that project or grant descriptions for NSW were often limited, making it difficult to determine whether restoration or native seed activities occurred.

We found **QLD** had 48 projects funded for restoration or native seed activities. The QLD government provided funding for 46 of the projects in QLD, with Noosa council providing funding for 2. In QLD, 6 of the projects extended from 2020 – 2036, 5 of the projects were in 2020-2021 and 36 were between 2016 – 2018. The average funding amount in 2020-2021/2036 was \$1,686,990.58 compared to \$18,805.40 in 2016-2018.

Research limitations for QLD included a general lack of available or easily accessible data with monetary values related to restoration or native seeds, particularly for 2021.

Summary of Desktop Funding Study - Summary of Results & Research Challenges (continued)

Dataset 2: Investment in Restoration/Rehabilitation (continued)

The **Victorian** Government invested in 116 restoration and native seed projects. The Victorian government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) funded most of the projects, mainly through Victorian Landcare Grants.

Like NSW, data on Victorian government investments were relatively readily available with lists of funding projects and the amount provided on the DELWP website. The Victorian government appeared to invest more readily than other states or had more available data. However, greater investment by the Victorian government for restoration, revegetation and native seed conservation was likely a result of the bushfires in Victoria, providing funding for 'Biodiversity Bushfire Recovery Grants. Limitations for Victoria included a lack of funding and investment data available before 2018. Like NSW, VIC projects often provided limited details for many grants making it challenging to determine whether restoration or native seed activities occurred.

The average funding amount for 83 projects in 2019/20-21 was \$1 024 026, compared to an average of \$13 006 for 33 projects in 2018-2019.

For **WA**, our research found 64 projects involved in restoration or native seeds funded primarily by the WA government, with two funded by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River and one by Envirofund. Data on funding in 2018 and was available online on a centralised government website in the forms of Community Stewardship Grants, Environmental Revegetation and Rehabilitation Fund and Coastwest Grants.

The average funding amount over 43 projects in 2020-2021/22 was \$889 938 compared to an average of \$393 160 across 29 projects throughout 2015-2018.

In **SA** we found 30 projects involved in restoration or native seed funded by various government departments. Funding bodies included the SA government, Landscape South Australia, and Mount Barker District Council. All the data found for SA was for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Data for earlier than 2020 was not readily available.

Grant details were provided for most Landscape South Australia jurisdictions. However, there were no quoted figures for land area, cost, or amount of trees planted for some jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions also only listed a project name for each grant and hence it was not possible to verify if revegetation occurred.

Most council websites had easily accessible details of community grants. However, they were listed in formats that only featured the project title and amount received, making it hard to verify whether revegetation occurred unless explicitly stated in the project title.

The total funding amount for the 30 projects we found in 2020-2022 was \$6 202 274 and the average amount invested per project was \$221 510.

Summary of Desktop Funding Study - Summary of Results & Research Challenges (continued)

We found the ACT government invested in 25 programs involved in restoration and native seed. There were 16 projects funded in 2019/ 2021-2022 with the average amount of funding provided being \$12 891. In comparison 9 projects were funding in 2015-2017 with the average amount of funding being \$19 441.

The data collection for **Tasmania** was relatively challenging as we found there was a paucity of data that included funding amounts for restoration and native seed projects available in the public domain. It is unclear whether a lack of data is due to an overall lack of funding in these areas or that data has not been made publicly available.

Due to a lack of centralised resources on environmental grants (i.e., websites like Landscape South Australia), most research was done through various PDF documents accessible in the public domain through search engines.

Like SA, most TAS council websites provided details on community grants and their revegetation projects in an easily accessible manner. However, published grants had limited details, i.e., no project description, funding amount or number of trees planted not disclosed.

Nevertheless, our desktop research uncovered 19 projects involving restoration or native seeds were funded in Tasmania, 4 in 2020-2021 and 15 over 2015-2018. Landcare Tasmania funded majority of the restoration projects in Tasmania.

We found the **NT** had the least amount of data available on investments for revegetation and conservation of endangered species projects. We found two projects were funded in the NT for restoration or native seed projects by the NT Department AWE in 2014 and the Territory NRM in 2018. The total of the two projects was \$75 000. We found no information on investments for restoration or native seeds after 2018 in the NT.

It is unclear whether a lack of data is due to an overall lack of funding in these areas or that data has not been made publicly available. However, with the NT being a Commonwealth Territory, it could be that more funding is direct from the Commonwealth rather than distributed by the NT government. It would be beneficial to spend more time researching the financing in the NT to develop a more robust dataset.

The Australian Government (Commonwealth)

The data collection process found the Australian government-funded 193 projects involved in restoration or native seed activities. In 2019/2021-2022 various Australian government departments funded 123 projects and the average amount of funding was \$514 016. In 2019/2021-2022 the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment (Dept. AWE) was the main funding body, providing significant investment to bushfire recovery and community environmental programs.

In comparison, 70 projects were funded in 2015-2018 and the average amount of funding was \$1 735 924. In 2015-2016 most of the funding was provided by the Dept. AWE to the 20 million Trees Program.

NSW received the most funding from the Australian government, with 72 projects being funded. Victoria and Queensland followed with 38 and 30 projects funded by the Australian government, respectively. Tasmania and the Northern Territory had the least number of projects funded with 9 and 2 projects, respectively. Our research-based on publicly available data indicates that the NT is likely receiving and providing less funding than other states and territories in the restoration and native seed sector.

Data on investments and projects funded involved in restoration and the native seed sector by the Australian government was often readily available. The various government departments provided grant or funding details on their websites. Once a grant or funding program was identified, the details required to complete the dataset were often available.

Summary of Desktop Funding Study - Summary of Results & Research Challenges (continued)

Non-Government Sector

Overall, obtaining data on investments made by the private sector for restoration and native seed involved various challenges. Crucially, it was difficult to find monetary values invested in restoration, tree planting and native seed projects. Instead, private companies regularly disclosed the number of trees planted or pledged to be planted throughout the project. Whether these projects were executed and maintained remains unclear and raises the issue of potentially unrealised undertakings. Nevertheless, for the compilation of dataset 3, we recorded the number of trees planted if monetary funding was not disclosed.

Although several private companies often did not disclose the number of tree plantings or the value of their donations, they did however still mention their involvement in restoration projects or partnership with a planting foundation. While the most openly communicated information regarding monetary investment or the number of trees planted came from entities partnered with Landcare.

We undertook some research on the ASX and the relevant groups. However, as consolidated groups under trade names were unknown to consumers, it is unclear whether the ASX groups get many benefits (in terms of goodwill) from partnerships with NGOs such as Landcare. Larger companies were undoubtedly more prevalent amongst our findings, perhaps caused by greater consumer awareness of their behaviours.

An overview of the investment in restoration, tree planting and native seed provided by the private sector we found on the public domain is as follows.

Prominent investors include:

The Nature Foundation (Not-for-profit)

The Ian Potter Foundation

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

The Wildlife Recovery Fund

BHP Billiton (Mining)

ANZ (Bank)

In 2019-2020/21 we found 104 projects funded by private companies for restoration, tree planting or native seed activities. While not all the projects listed the monetary value invested, the total amount of invested was \$17 474 315, with an average of \$236 139.

In 2015-2018 our research found 23 projects that invested in restoration, tree planting or native seed activities. The total amount invested was \$317,565,693 with an average of \$24,428,130. It should be noted that these figures are exceptionally large compared to investments in 2019-2020/21 due to a \$300,000,000 project funded by Shell QGC business. However, the Nature-based solutions project funded by Shell does not indicate the amount of funding dedicated to Australia, as the project is also located in Kenya and Brazil. As a result, we recorded the entire budget.

Overall, with more time, there is ample opportunity in the future to build upon the database of the history and trends of investments by the private sector in restoration and the native seed sector.

Additional data could be obtained for other years (the preferred years for this study being last year and five years ago). There is data for intervening years, previous years, and data will be added for subsequent years as funding is granted. Given the disparate nature and size of the data on the web it is likely more sources remain to be located. It may be possible to glean more information from targeted phone or other surveys.

Summary of Desktop Funding Study - Summary of Results & Research Challenges (continued)

Dataset 3: Funding for Conservation seed banks, botanic gardens, and herbariums.

Various government departments and several private entities have provided funding for conservation seed banks, botanic gardens, and herbariums from 2012 to 2021. A mix of both the Australian government and state government departments provided funding. Some private entities that provided investments included CMV Truck bus, Botanica by Air Wick, Ian Potter Foundation and BHP Billiton. We found most investments were for seedbanks, including native seed conservation and research rather than botanic gardens and herbariums.

In 2019-2020/21 we found 36 projects funded with the total funding amount equalling \$77 181 250 and an average of \$2 270 037 per funding project. In comparison, we found 30 projects funded between 2012-2018 with the total funding amount equalling \$51 899 095 and averaging \$1 853 539 per project.

Overall, the main issue faced when collecting data for dataset 3 was difficulty finding actual figures, as most organisations reported on the project's activity rather than funding. Many of these seed banks and relevant agencies were in partnerships making it challenging to isolate funding to a specific agency as many agencies were working on the same project. Some organisations were receiving and directing funding which could result in double-ups. There were some partnership groups trading seeds between themselves instead of capital funding. Seed banks appear to be managed by large government departments, giving only one sentence about the seed bank in their annual report. Another issue was finding figures for grants that had been pledged, but there was ambiguity around the actual figure awarded and used, e.g., the Federal Threatened Species Prospectus.

NSW appeared to have the greatest state/federal/private funding for their seed banking facilities and research. We found the **Victorian** government invested in creating seed banks for restoration after fire and receiving some federal funding to do so.

Tasmania had a large seed bank, and the research showed an emphasis on expanding it. However, we deduce Tasmania faces funding constraints that NSW/VIC would not have. **SA** had funding for the restoration of Kangaroo Island listed publicly, but we found no income breakdown towards their seed bank facilities. In **QLD**, we found only a few private grants for research and implementation of seed banks for rainforest seeds

For **WA**, the Threatened Flora Seed Centre has now become the WA seed centre, but they have no available breakdown of their funding. In WA, there was the Kings Park Seed Centre, but there is no information on the Kensington centre. WA had grants and funding values from 2016, but the actual figures were not available for recent years. The Threatened Flora seed centre received funding in 2020 from the WA Departments of Primary Industry and Regional Development to safeguard against Myrtle Rust, but neither department publications specified any figure or range for funding.

The **Northern Territory** was by far the most difficult to obtain data for; they have two state managed seedbanks affiliated with the Millennium seed bank (MSB) but there was no data available on government websites providing any information. The NT does not have a Landcare council anymore, which may indicate why projects and data were sparse.

We expect that there are many more private grants for research that were not found (due to time constraints and date availability), especially in collaboration with universities. Therefore, there is an opportunity to build upon this dataset in the future.

Summary this Funding Study – General Issues & Opportunities

General issues

A limitation in tracking funding for relevant projects was that in many cases few details about the funding or grant were provided. Often only the project title was provided, making it difficult to determine whether restoration or native seed activities occurred. This was a common problem in NSW and VIC. However, if the project title had words such as restoration, revegetation, rehabilitation, tree planting, native seed, the project and funding amount was included in the dataset.

The funding amounts for each project were rarely broken up into spending for each activity within a project. Moreover, there was consistent overlap between restoration, rehabilitation, and conservation, with projects including various elements not directly related to these activities. Therefore, the specific amounts spent on restoration and conservation were not available. As a result, we recorded the entire project amount, resulting in an overestimated funding. However, we only included projects where we could identify restoration activities, hence the funding values were still relevant.

The time periods, reporting style, and available data between funding bodies were not consistent. However, we collected any relevant data discovered.

The overall time limit of the project meant that not every investment for either dataset could be collected and recorded. We predict government bodies and the private sector provide more grants and funding that we did not find.

Opportunities

We undertook a robust data collection process, and the consequent datasets we developed provide a valuable foundation to identify the history and trends of investments made by the government and private sector for both restoration and conservation seed banks.

There is an opportunity in the future to build upon these foundational databases. We expect there are more grants and funding, particularly in the private sector, to be found or were not currently visible to our searches. To build upon the databases, it would do well to continue to add new funding sources, follow up on projects completed in 2021 that had not released data, add funding and investments in the years that were not required in this project.

Further investigation should be undertaken into funding provided by or to states and territories that did not have as readily available data, notably Tasmania and the NT. Doing this would help clarify whether the data was not published or whether these states/ territories receive or fund less than others.

This initial dataset needs to be maintained, updated and expanded to provide long term value for Project Phoenix.

To provide an accurate, ongoing information source, a register of projects that details the source, objectives, allocation and outcomes is required.

As well, a database of native seed sources, distribution and uses will make the information more relevant.

Detailed Survey Results

b. Telephone Survey

Scripted telephone survey regarding restoration / rehabilitation and conservation projects funded or received funding for in the public and non-government sectors.

Metholdogy for the Telephone Survey

This survey was conducted by telephone using computer assisted telephone interviews (CATI). This is our preferred methodology for the reasons shown here,

All calls were made from KG2's in-house call centre using a CATI (computer assisted telephone interviews) system by trained, experienced interviewers. Being almost exclusively university agriculture graduate and post-graduate students, they have knowledge and understanding that enabled them to create a rapport with farmers to probe responses appropriately.

Data analysis, outputs and reporting were all completed in-house at KG2.

The Sample

KG2 owns and manages Australia's most comprehensive agriculture database which provided access for respondents to this survey. However, given the nature of this survey and the lack of any comprehensive sources, this was supplemented by other public and private sources.

Questionnaire

The questions used in this survey were developed in conjunction with key contacts at Project Phoenix. The intention was for feedback and information to contribute to the objectives of the survey, supplement the desk research, and provide a source of contacts who were happy to be contacted in the future.



People are busy

The telephone is the most effective method to reach people and we efficiently schedule interviews/call backs at a suitable time for respondents.



The phone provides a more robust methodology

Our extensive experience spanning 25 years shows that completion rates using an online approach are only around 2%. It can also take a long time to get responses and it is not possible to control the composition of the sample. Telephone surveying allows us to manage the sample, follow the flow of responses, ensure the responses are complete, probe the respondent and clarify any questions they have. This helps to achieve a representative result and achieve data that is valid, robust and reliable.



CATI is the most cost effective method

To reach a representative sample is costly and takes time. CATI can achieve these research objectives more efficiently.



Phone surveying builds rapport

Our highly trained research interview team establish rapport with producers. This enables an easy transfer of information, speeds up the interview (therefore reducing costs) and allows more truthful and unbiased feedback.



Phone surveying is more targeted

To achieve sample requirements, we target and complete interviews more efficiently (which is hard to do with other methodologies).



Quality control procedures and checks

All interviews conducted by CATI are recorded for quality assurance and training purposes. As part of our auditing, we review at least 10% of calls.



Safety of data

All KG2 data infrastructure is housed in Australia. Our data is not 'shipped off' overseas where laws are less stringent to that of Australia.



Call Report & Interviewer Feedback for Telephone Survey

KG2 attempted to call 878 people for this survey and made contact with 554. Only 82 surveys were completed (15% of those contacted).

This low response rate was affected largely by the degree of difficulty to get to the right person, policy not to participate in surveys, refusal to discuss funding in any manner, or not being involved with making or receiving funding.

Overall, the study was very well received amongst respondents and most people wished to be contacted again by Project Phoenix. A key issue was getting past receptionists – making it difficult to get to the right person to speak to.

A large group of people immediately assumed that we were going to ask them for donations for projects in response to the recent bushfires. After confirming the reason for the call is to conduct research, almost all respondents are happy to do the survey if they are applicable.

Was there any issue with respondents doing the study?

The main issue was finding the right people to do the study as key people were often very busy. If we did get in contact with the right person, they often requested the study to be sent through as an email.

Some respondents did not wish to offer an opinion on whether or not there had been an increase or decrease in investment for restoration and conservation as the organisation presented themselves as unbiased to any political opinions. Some other respondents didn't feel comfortable answering as they were not confident in their knowledge of their funding.

Was there issues with obtaining information on funding?

There were issues with respondents not knowing how much would have been received in previous years or being able to offer a prediction for the future (sometimes because they had not been at the organisation for long), or people were not sure of the hard figures and gave estimated amounts.

The majority of respondents had to answer with the provided brackets as they could not recall exactly how much they may have received. Most people also answered that more information on their funding would be located in their annual report on their website. In many cases, this will have been picked up in the desk research.

Call Report & Interviewer Feedback for Telephone Survey (continued)

Some examples of feedback from interviewers for unsuccessful calls:

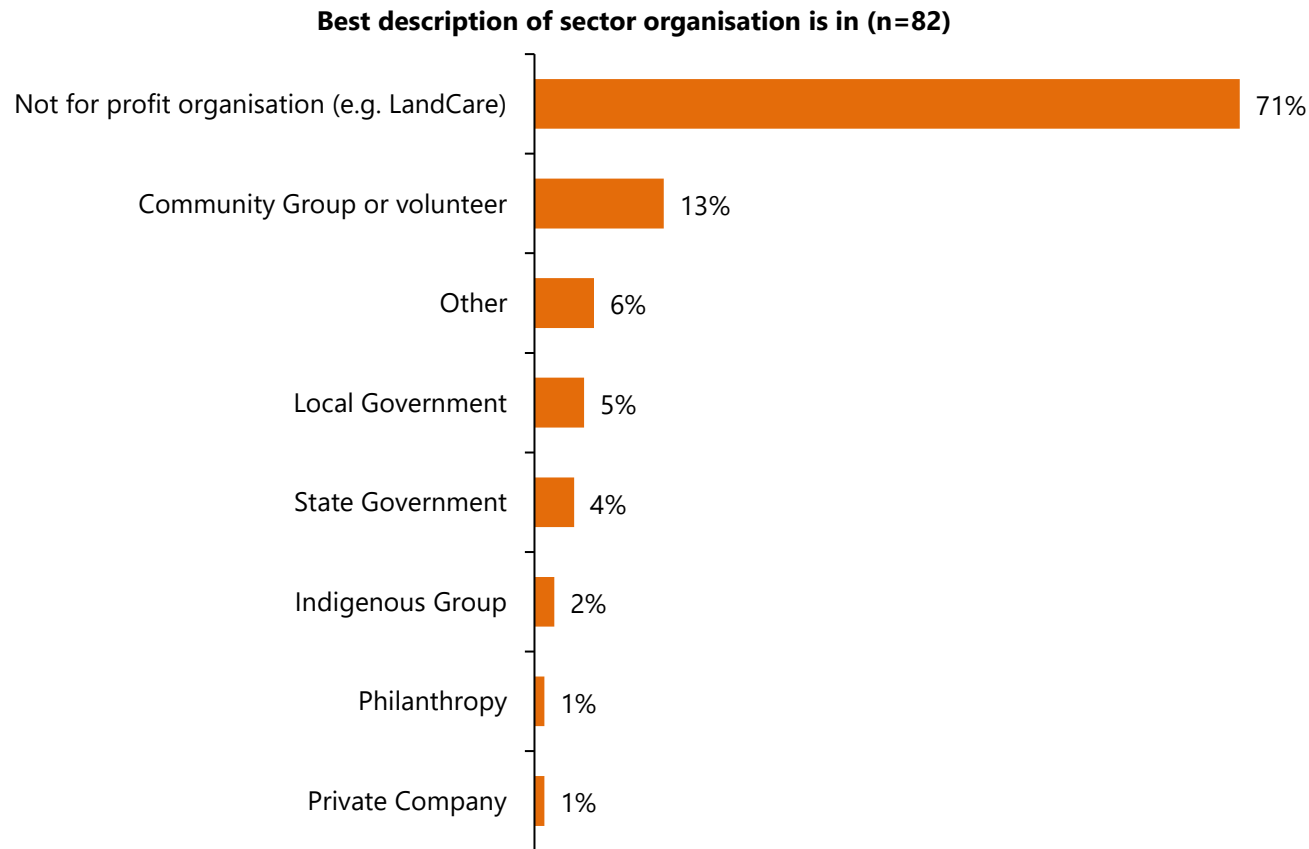
- *Too busy, group not in business as a lot of the volunteers had been hit by the bushfires.*
- *Did not agree to do the survey once questions to do with funding came up. Does not wish to be contacted further. Firmly stated that he is against doing this research, rather than Project Phoenix's money going to Landcare groups directly.*
- *Was busy - when he heard it was about funding said don't bother calling back.*
- *Said that he did not know if the organisation received any funding - finance team currently had no members left so no one would be able to answer our questions.*
- *Explained wanting to chat to someone with understanding of funding of ecological projects. They did not want to speak over the phone, only by email.*
- *Going into a meeting and said that she did not have time to take these calls.*
- *Couldn't get past receptionist.*
- *No one in office and doesn't want to give out numbers.*
- *Didn't want to disclose whether they received funding.*
- *Can't do the study as has to keep the line open for customers. No other line we could go through.*

Call Report - Phase 2-3 Project Phoenix n=82		
Total Records Loaded	878	100%
Unable to contact	324	37%
Result of Contact		
Contacted	554	100%
Not Completed	472	85%
Completed	82	15%
Summary of completed surveys (respondent may fall into multiple categories)		
Provided Funding	17	21%
Received Funding	80	98%
Involved with Restoration	78	95%
Involved with Conservation	33	40%
Reason for non-completion, if contacted		
Disconnected	56	12%
Not involved with Conservation/Restoration	65	14%
Not interested	53	11%
Not applicable / Didn't qualify	12	3%
Retired / Not involved in industry	4	1%
Doesn't do phone surveys / research	28	6%
Other/no reason/hang up/call back unsuccessful	254	54%
	472	100%

Profile of Organisations

Q1A. Which of the following best describes the sector that the organization or operation you work with is in? (n=82)

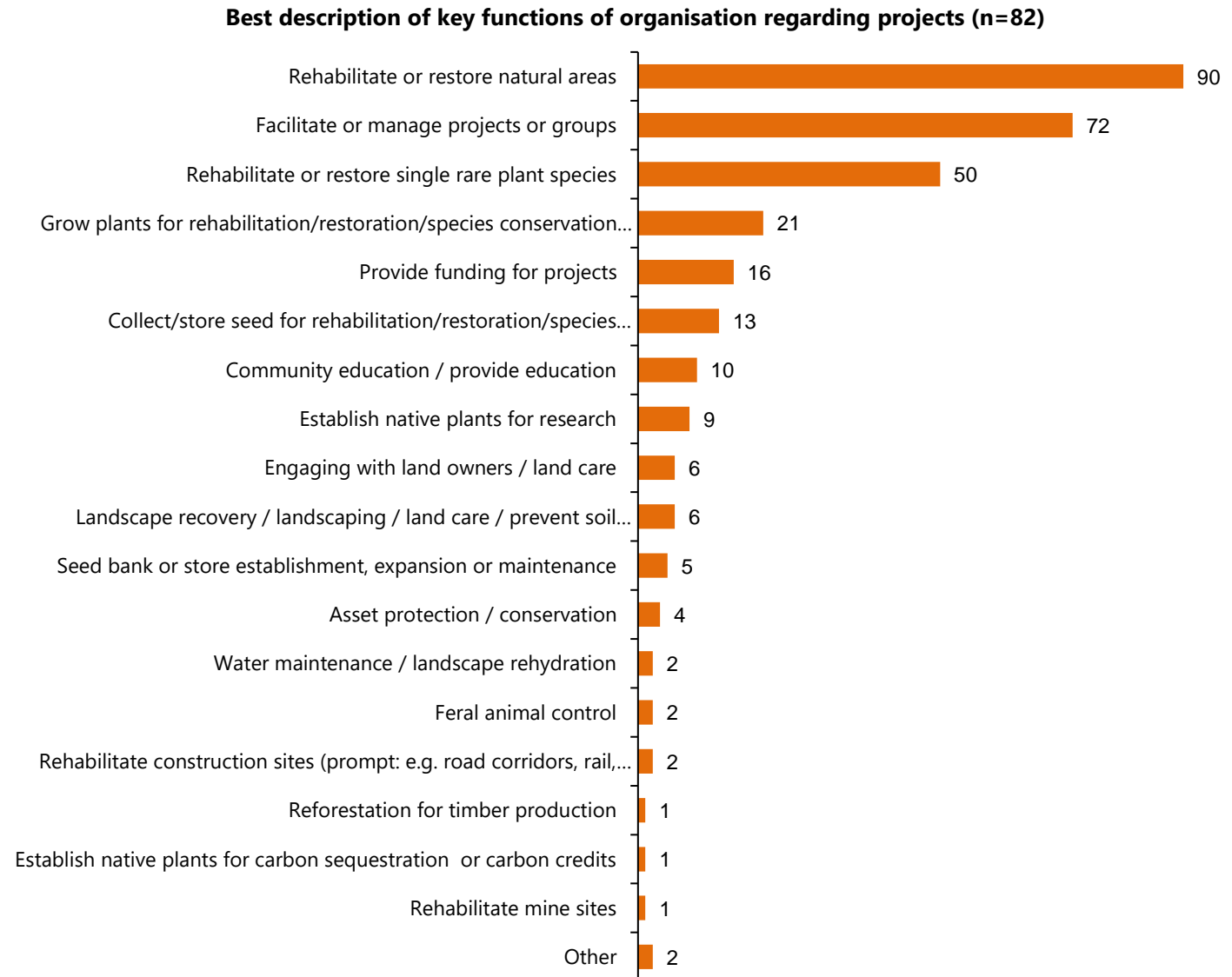
- The majority (71%) of those who completed the survey were not for profit groups, such as Landcare.
- Other community groups and volunteers were 13% of the respondents. That is a total of 84% of respondents were not for profit or community groups.
- State (5%) and local government (4%) combined were 9%. The Commonwealth Government was not a respondent.



Profile of Organisations

Q1B. How would you best describe the key functions regarding projects conducted by the organisations or operation you work with? (n=82)

- Multiple responses possible in this question.
- A large majority (90%) rehabilitated or restored natural areas and 50 % rehabilitated or restored single plant species. This reflects the high percentage of respondents that were Landcare or similar groups.
- 72% facilitated or managed projects of groups.
- 21% grew plants for rehabilitation, etc.

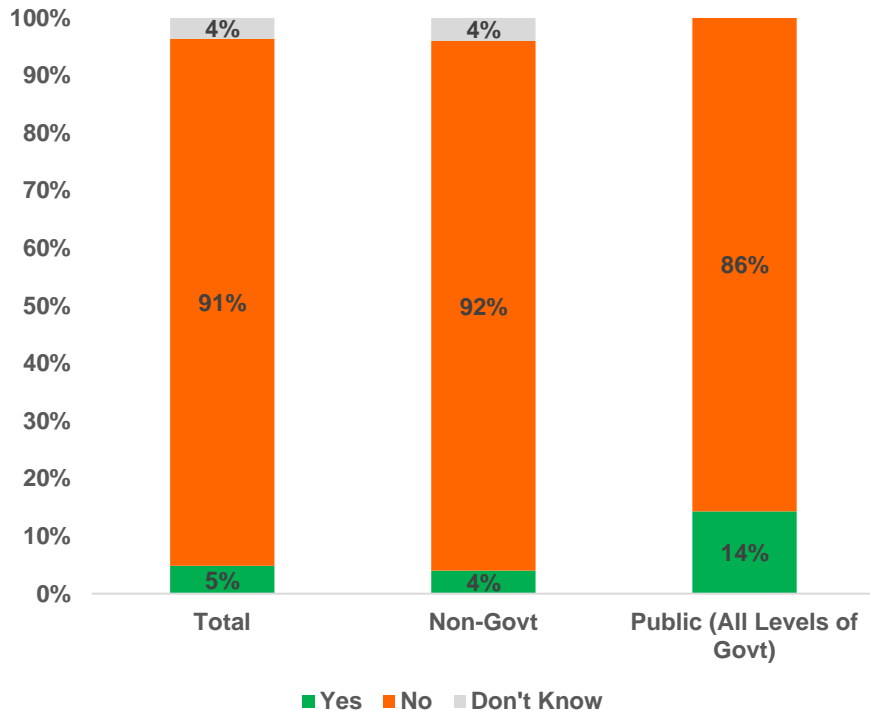


Meeting of Needs

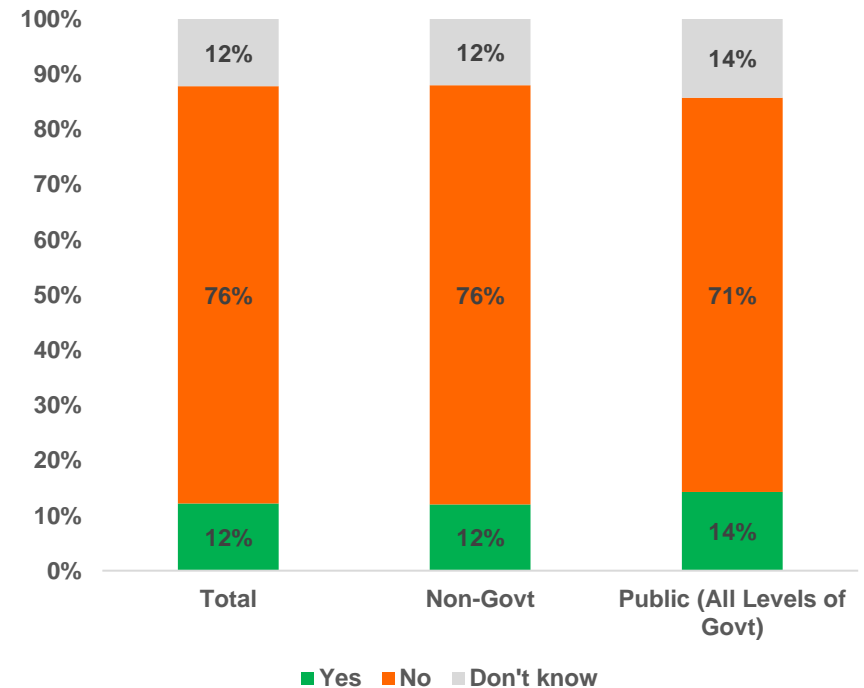
Q2/Q3. Do you believe there is sufficient investment to meet Australia's current need for Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation or in Rare or Endangered Single Plant Species Conservation (n= 82)

- Overwhelmingly, respondents thought there was insufficient investment in ecological restoration and rehabilitation and in single plant species conservation.
- A total of 91% said there was not sufficient funding for restoration and rehabilitation.
- A smaller total of 76% said there was not sufficient funding for single species plant conservation.
- A larger proportion of non-government respondents thought there was insufficient investment than public sector respondents.

Q2 Sufficient investment for Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation (n= 82)



Q3. Sufficient investment for Endangered Single Plant Species Conservation (n= 82)

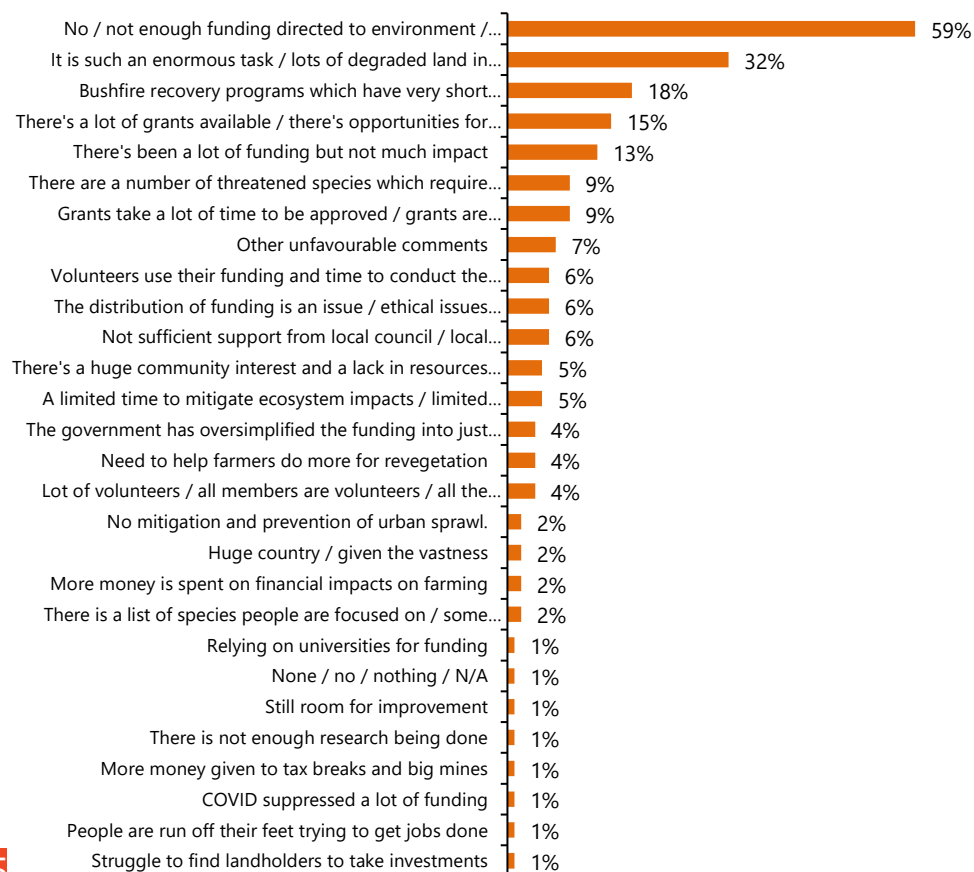


Meeting of Needs

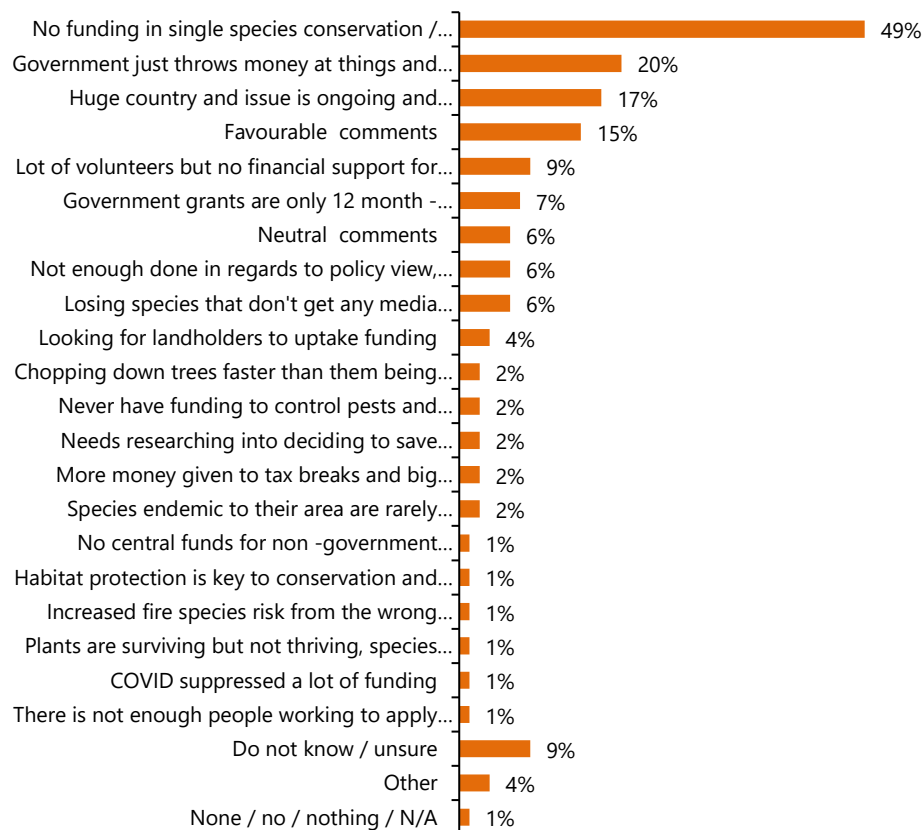
Q2A/3A Why did you say there was sufficient or insufficient investment in Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation? (n=82) in Rare or Endangered Single Plant Species Conservation? (n=32)

- A range of reasons were given for why there is sufficient or, in most cases, insufficient funding and many gave multiple answers.
- The charts below only show those that were mentioned by at least 5% of the sample.
- The top responses point to the size of the task and hence the need for greater funding. Other comments reinforced the great need for action and support.
- Other issues raised include little impact from funding, the need to maintain work on threatened species long term.
- Other comments raised a lack of support from all levels of government and concerns about the grants processes, including time taken for approval.

Restoration/Rehabilitation



Conservation

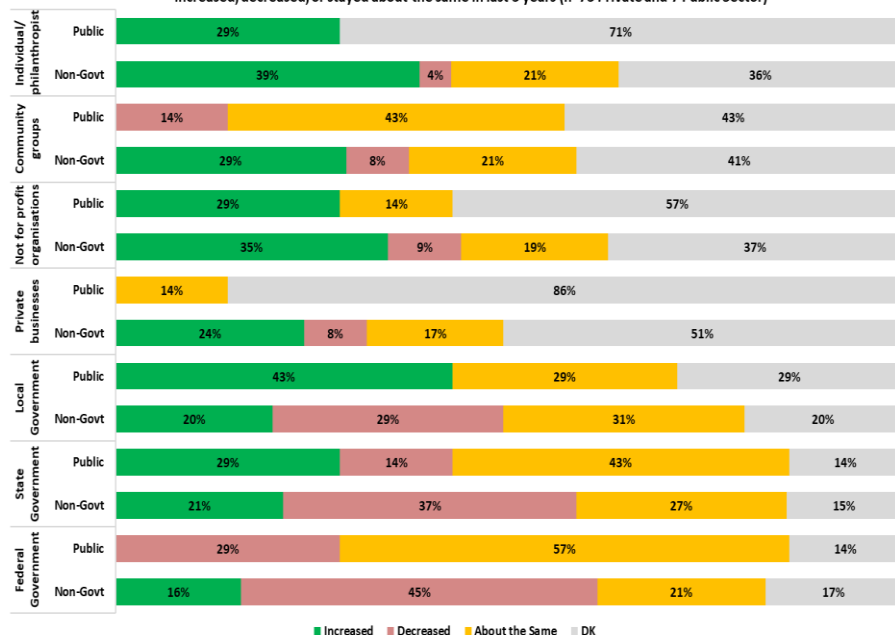


Perception of Funding

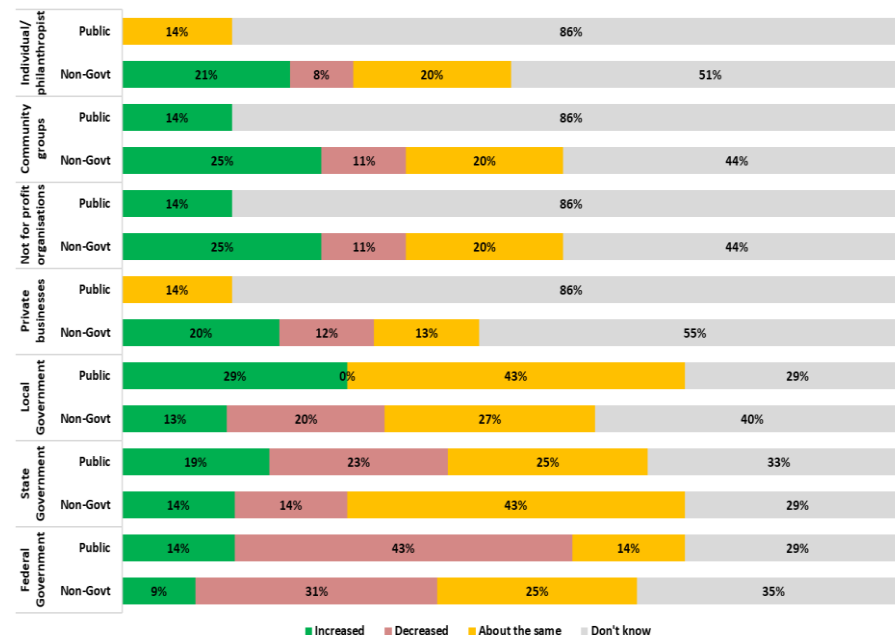
Q4/5. % Public and Non-Govt think investment in Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation or Conservation has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same in last 5 years (n=75 Non-Govt and 7 Public Sector)

- A wide range of views on this suggest individual experience and breadth of knowledge may vary.
- In addition to actual changes in funding levels, a perception that funding levels have reduced may be influenced by the success rate in receiving funding, which in turn may be reflective of increased competition.
- As a generality, more respondents in non-government organisations than in the public sector thought that funding levels by most sectors had increased for both restoration/rehabilitation and conservation over the last five years. Perceived increases were generally lower for conservation than restoration.
- 43-45% of respondents from non-government organisations thought funding from the Federal Government had reduced over the last 5 years, but 16% reported it had increased, with 21-25% saying it is about the same.
- The largest reports of increases were for restoration projects, with 39% of non-government organisations for individual/philanthropic funding, 43% of government respondents (sample of seven) for local government funding, and 35% for funding by not for profit organisations as reported by non-government respondents.

Q4. % PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR who think investment in Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same in last 5 years (n=75 Private and 7 Public Sector)



Q5. % PUBLIC AND NON-GOVERNMENT SECTOR who think investment in Rare OR Endangered Single Plant Species Conservation has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same in last 5 years (n=75 Private and 7 Public Sector)

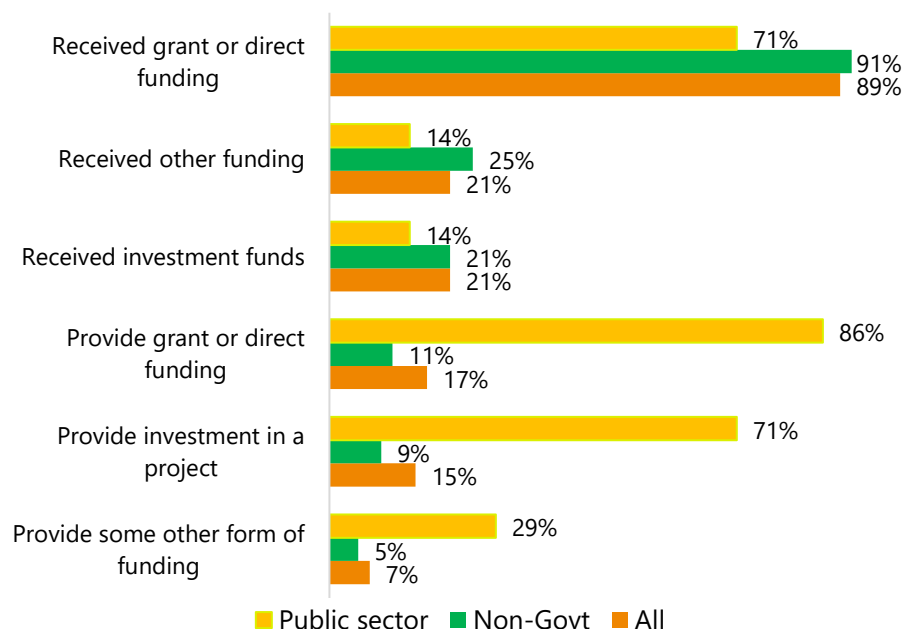


Perception of Funding

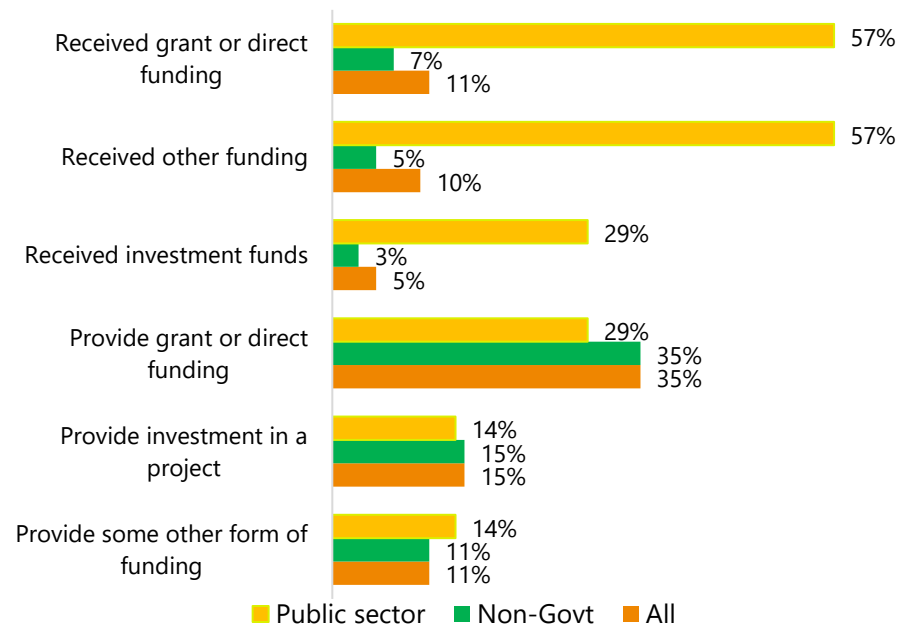
Q6. Provided or Received Funding for Ecological Restoration or Rehabilitation or for Endangered Plant Species Conservation projects in 2020-21 (n=82)

- For restoration and rehabilitation, (82 respondents) overall 89% received funding either by a grant or direct funding. In the public sector this was 71% and 91% for non-government respondents. A further 21% received other funding and 21% also received investment funds.
- 86% of the public sector provided grant or direct funding and 71% other forms of funding for restoration and rehabilitation.
- For endangered plant species conservation the public sector 57% received grant or other direct funding, 57% other funding and 29% investment funds.
- Providers of funding for endangered plant conservation were at around 30% for direct or grant funding, 15% for investment funding and a bit less of rother forms of funding.
- The main "other" form of funding mentioned (by 19% of respondents who had received any funding) was community donations or crowd funding, all in the private sector. More than one in five private sector respondents who funded conservation used this method compared with only 7% who funded rehabilitation/restoration. On the receiving end, 16% who received funding for rehabilitation/restoration and 13% who received funding for conservation reported it was a donation.

% Provided or Received Funding for Ecological Restoration or Rehabilitation



% Provided or Received for Funding for Endangered Plant Species Conservation projects



Perception of Funding

Q7/Q8. Sector that funding provided for Ecological Restoration was identified as being made to, and where funding received was identified as being used

- Each respondent could provide multiple uses for funding provided or received. Overall, 93% of respondents that had provided funding for restoration and rehabilitation did so for use on private property; 67% were involved with a natural disaster (e.g. fire or flood), 60% used it for a non-government protected area, 47% involved a government program or protected area and 20% planting for carbon sequestration.. 53% of funding involved an indigenous community.
- The proportions for the sectors where funding that received was used generally corresponded to those for where funding was directed, with some variations in the percentages. For example, 79% of funding received was used on private property, 55% on a non-government protected area, 47% for a natural disaster, 42% involving a government program or protected area and 8% for planting for carbon sequestration. 32% was used involving an indigenous group.
- While there were differences between the sectors that those funding and receiving reported it was used for, overall, they were consistent with the top seven sectors being the same for both. However, the percentage of reports by sector was generally higher among those receiving funding than those receiving. This may reflect a more generalised response from providers while those who received funding providing a more specific use of it

Q7. In what sector was funding provided for Ecological Restoration used ?	SECTOR		
	Total	Non-Govt	Public (All Levels of Govt)
Private Property	93%	89%	100%
Natural disaster such as fire or flood	67%	67%	67%
Non Government Protected Area	60%	78%	33%
Indigenous community	53%	67%	33%
Government Recovery program or protected area	47%	44%	50%
Carbon planting project (not regrowth or regeneration)	20%	22%	17%
Forestry	13%	22%	0%
Mining	7%	11%	0%
Sample	15	9	6

Q8. In what sector was funding received for Ecological Restoration used?	SECTOR		
	Total	Non-Govt	Public (All Levels of Govt)
Private Property	79%	79%	80%
Non Government Protected Area	55%	58%	20%
Natural disaster such as fire or flood	47%	48%	40%
Government Recovery program or protected area	42%	42%	40%
Indigenous community	32%	32%	20%
Carbon planting project (not regrowth or regeneration)	8%	7%	20%
Forestry	4%	4%	
The community	3%	3%	
Community education / workshops	3%	3%	
Crown land	2%	2%	
Local council land	2%	2%	
Mining	1%	1%	
Construction	1%	1%	
Habitat creation	1%	1%	
Indigenous groups	1%	1%	
Held under trust	1%	1%	
National parks	1%	1%	
Roadsides	1%	1%	
Sample	76	71	5

Perception of Funding

Q7_2/Q8_2. Sector that funding provided for Conservation was made to, and where funding received was used

- Again, each respondent could provide multiple uses for funding provided or received.
- For plant species conservation, 60% of respondents reported funding was made for a non-government protected area, 60% also for other protected areas, and 50% for government recovery programs or protected areas. 30% directed funds to seed banks.
- In terms of use of the funding, 59% received funds for use on a non-government protected area, 53% for use on other protected spaces and 38% on government recovery programs. 19% was used on seed banks.

Q 7_2. Sector that funding for Conservation was made to	SECTOR		
	Total	Non-Govt Organisation	Public (All Levels of Govt)
Non-Government protected area	60%	60%	60%
Other protected space	60%	60%	60%
Government recovery program or protected area	50%	40%	60%
Seed bank	30%	40%	20%
Private property/crown land	30%	75%	20%
Herbarium	20%	40%	
Botanic garden	10%	20%	
Govt areas - schools	10%	40%	
Sample	10	5	5

Q8_2. Sector where funding received for Conservation was used	SECTOR		
	Total	Non-Govt Organisation	Public (All Levels of Govt)
Botanic garden	6%	7%	
Seed bank	19%	17%	33%
Herbarium	9%	10%	
Non-Government protected area	59%	62%	33%
Other protected space	53%	55%	33%
Government recovery program	38%	34%	67%
The community	9%	10%	
Community education / workshops	9%	10%	
Crown land	6%	7%	
Habitat creation	3%	3%	
Indigenous groups	3%	3%	
Held under trust	3%	3%	
Local council land	6%	7%	
National parks	3%	3%	
Roadsides	3%	3%	
Sample	32	29	3

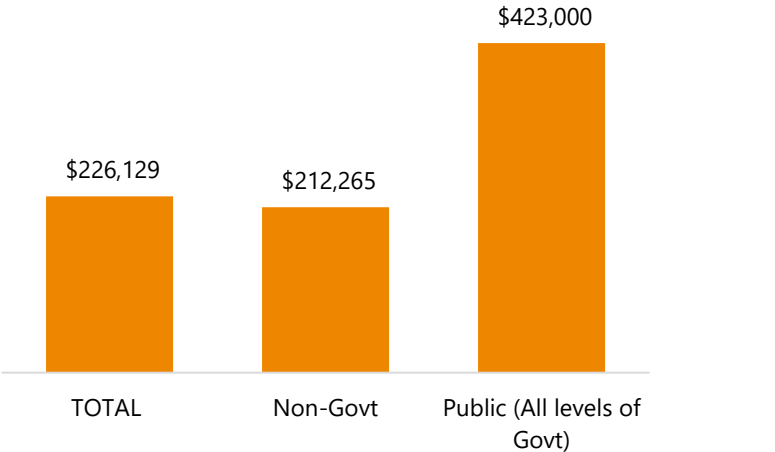
Summary of Funding Received

- The table below and following charts show the key funding metrics reported by those who had received funding.
- For the current period, funding received for restoration/rehabilitation was considerably higher than for conservation, particularly among those in non-government organisations.
- Around one-third of those who had received funding for restoration or rehabilitation said that their funding last year was more (47%) or about the same (18%) as five years ago. Among those who received funds for conservation projects, this fell to 49% with only 26% reporting an increase. Additional detail of these responses is given on the next page (33) for restoration and rehabilitation, and on the subsequent page (34) for single plant species conservation.
- The expectation for funding in the next 10 years was less optimistic among those currently receiving funding for restoration/rehabilitation with only 26% expecting an increase and 12% no change. Those receiving funding for conservation were more positive with around the same proportion who had reported an increase in funding in the last five years (49%) reporting an expected increase in the next 10 years (51%).
- Satisfaction with the amount of funding received was low, averaging between 5.3 and 5.9 out of 10 and between 29% and 33% giving a satisfaction rating of 8 or more out of 10. The specific reasons linked to these ratings are presented in the tables on the following pages (32-34).

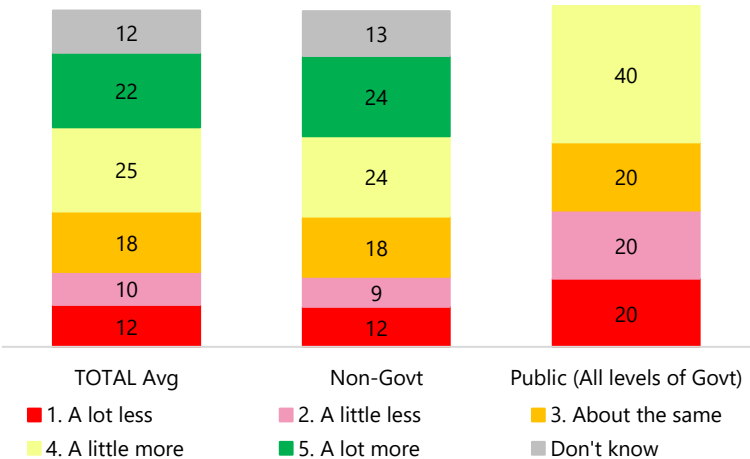
	FUNDING RECEIVED					
	Restoration or Rehabilitation Projects			Conservation Projects		
	ALL	Public	Non-Govt	ALL	Public	Non-Govt
Sample	76	71	5	32	29	3
Average amount of funding received in last year per respondent	\$ 226,129	\$ 212,265	\$ 423,000	\$ 158,531	\$170,966	\$ 38,333
Increase in amount of funding received than 5 years ago						
% A lot/a little more funding received than 5 years ago	47%	48%	40%	26%	26%	33%
% No change compared with 5 years ago	18%	18%	20%	23%	26%	0%
Total same or more funding received in last 5 years	65%	66%	60%	49%	52%	33%
Expectation of increase funding received in next 10 years						
% Lot/a little more funds received expected	26%	27%	20%	35%	38%	0%
% No change expected	12%	11%	20%	16%	14%	33%
Total expecting to receive same/more funding in next 10 years	38%	37%	40%	51%	52%	33%
Satisfaction with amount of funding received in last year						
% 8+/10 satisfaction	30%	29%	20%	24%	24%	33%
Average satisfaction out of 10	5.8	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.3

Funding Received for Ecological Restoration or Rehabilitation (n=76)

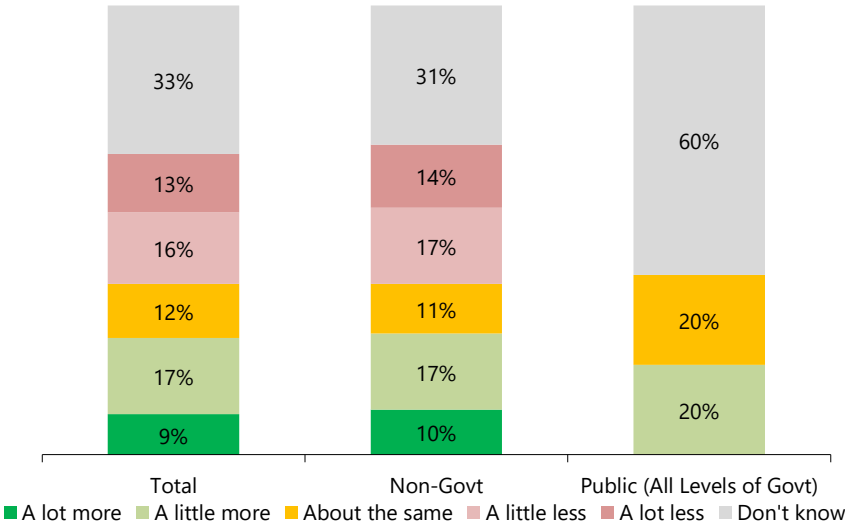
Average Amount Received for Ecological Restoration or Rehabilitation Projects This Year



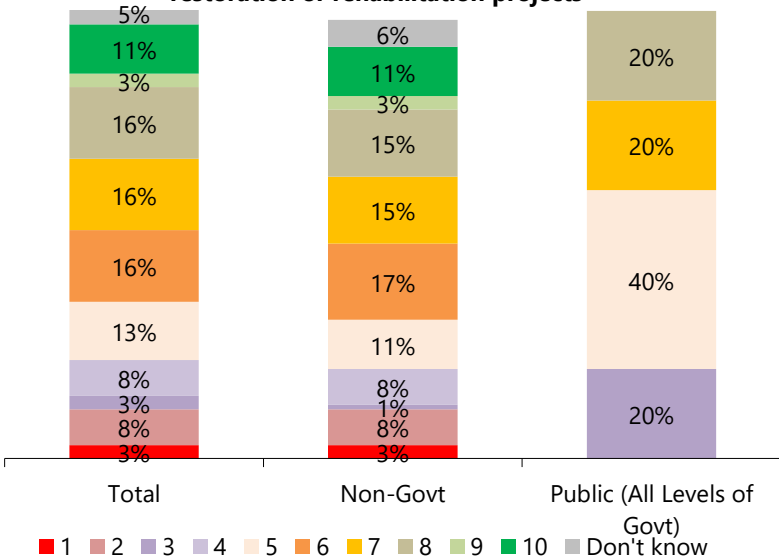
% by Amount Received for Ecological Restoration or Rehabilitation Now Compared with 5 Years Ago



% Expected change in amount of funding will receive for ecological restoration or rehabilitation in next 10 years

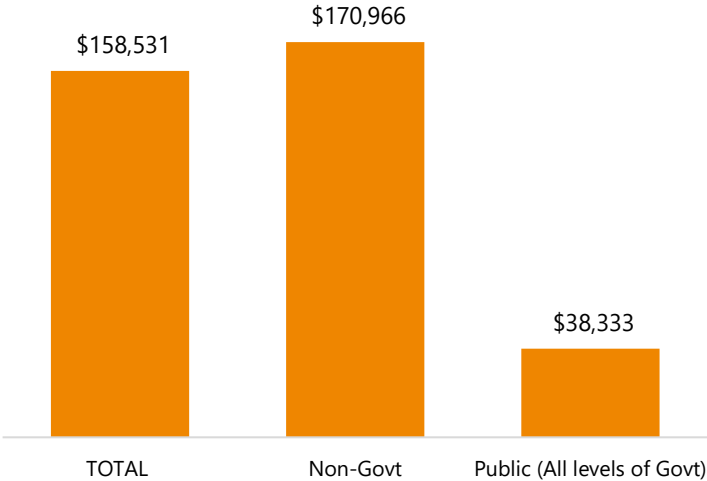


Satisfaction with funding received for ecological restoration or rehabilitation projects

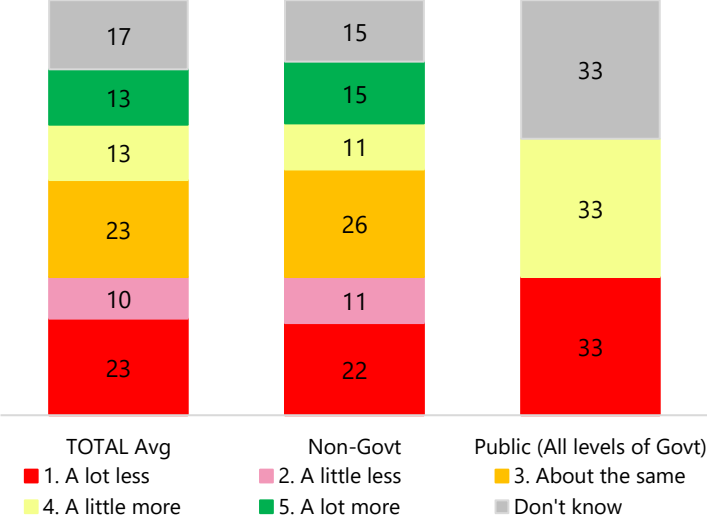


Funding Received for Rare or Endangered Single Plant Species Conservation (n=32)

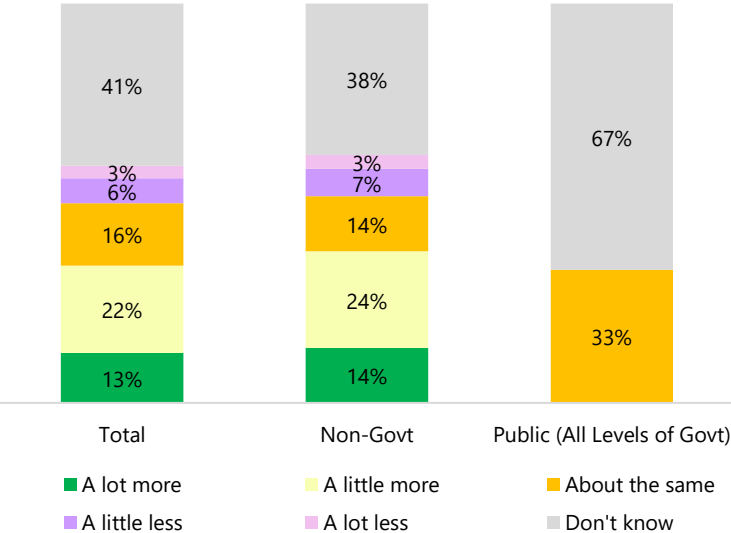
Average Amount Received for Conservation Projects This Year



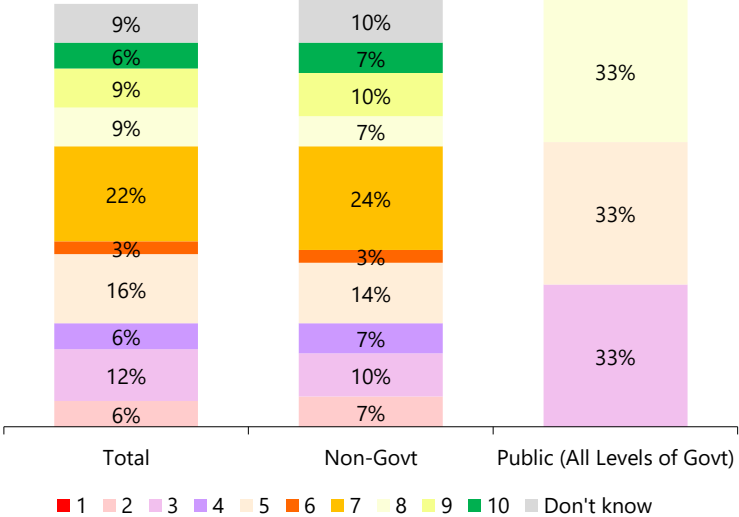
% by Amount Received for Conservation Now Compared with 5 Years Ago



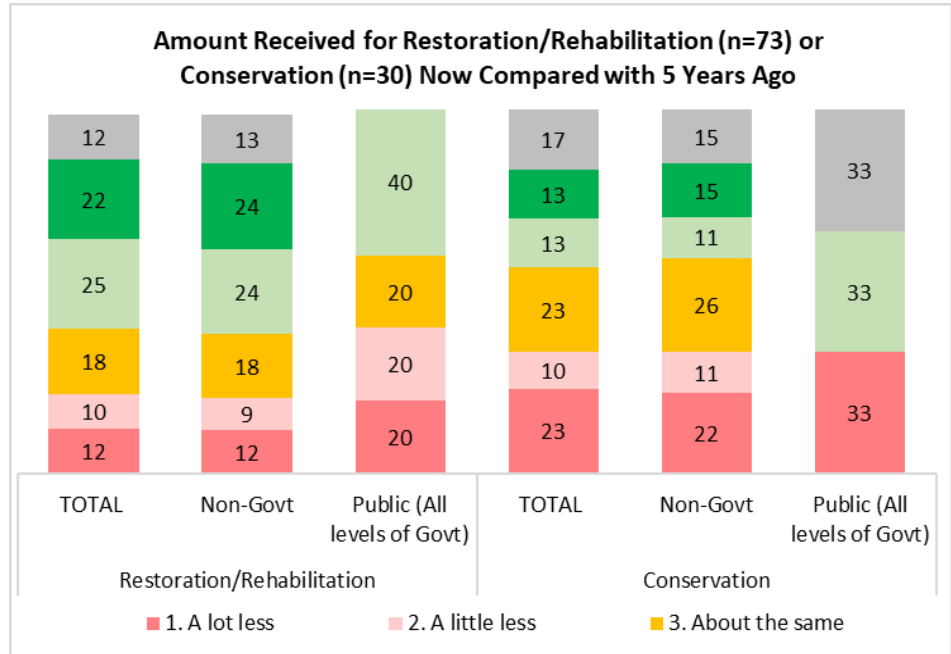
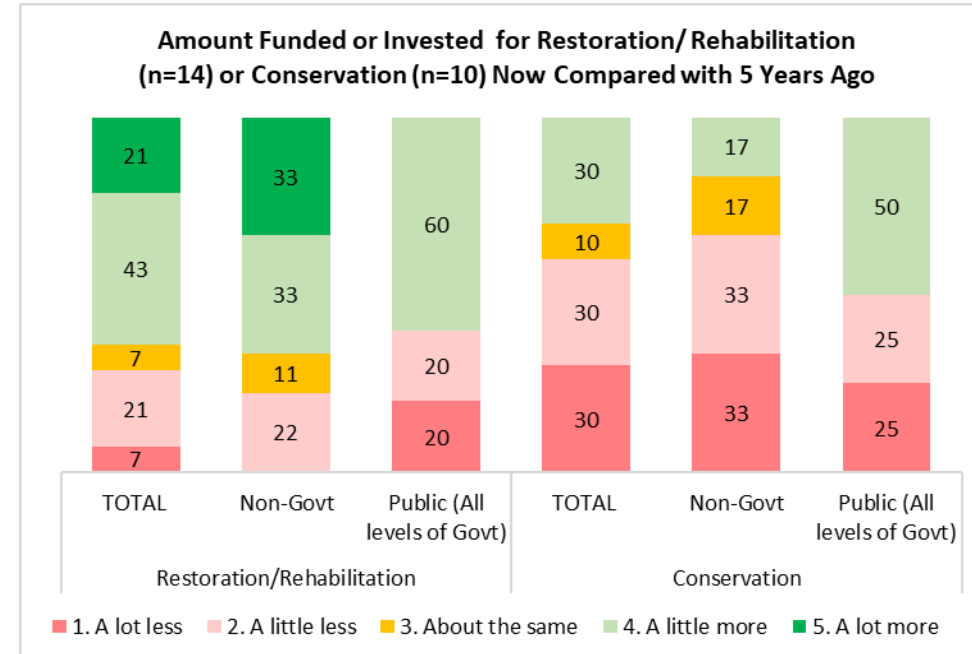
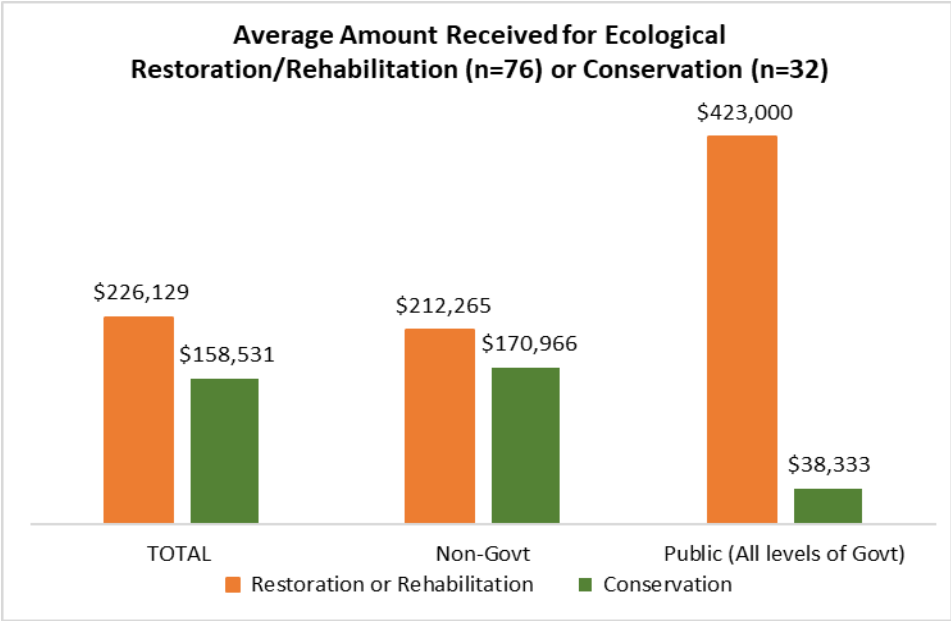
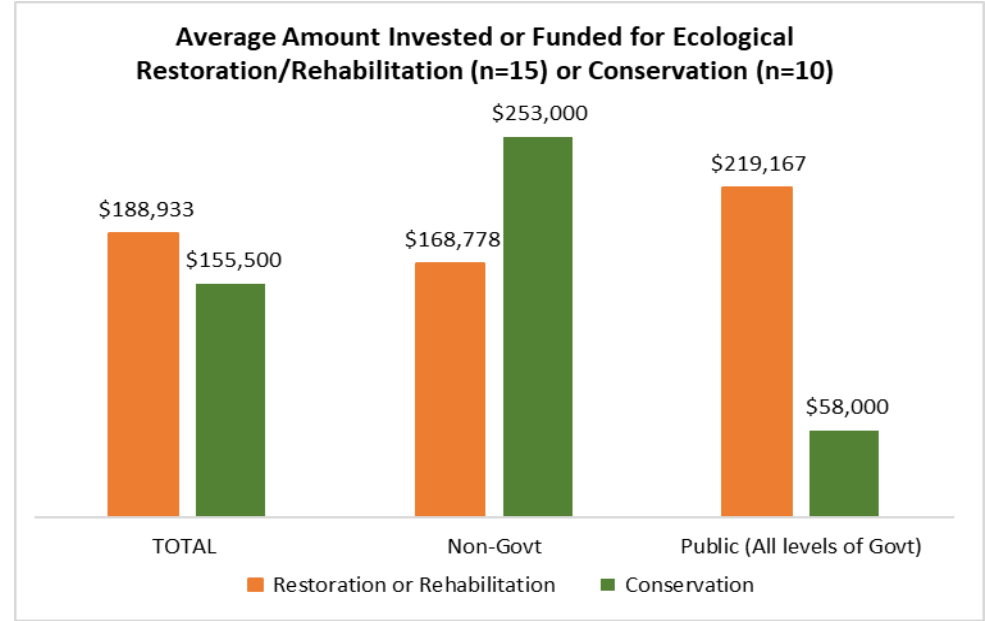
% Expected Change in Funding will Receive for Conservation in Next 10 Years



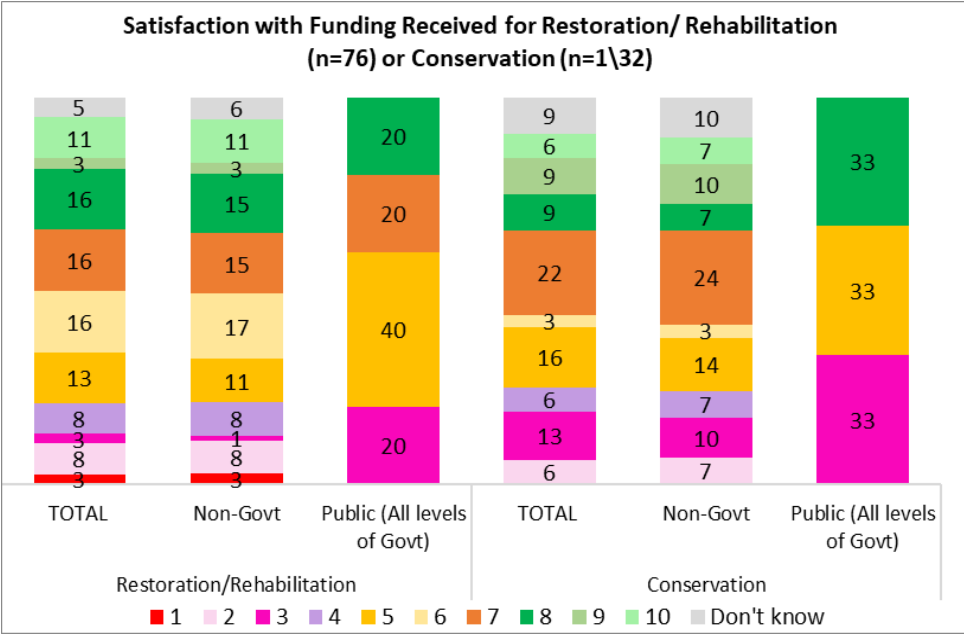
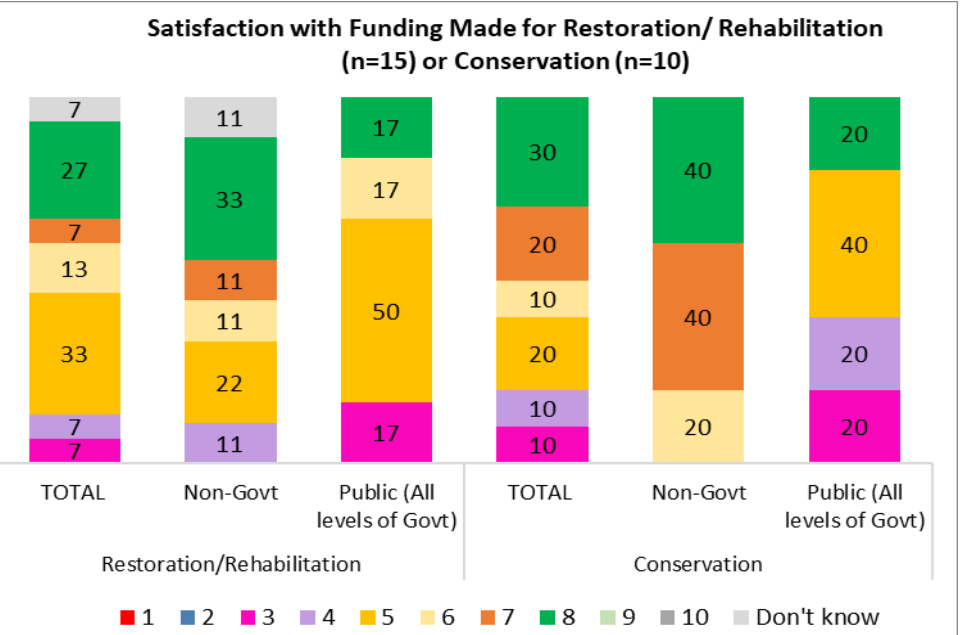
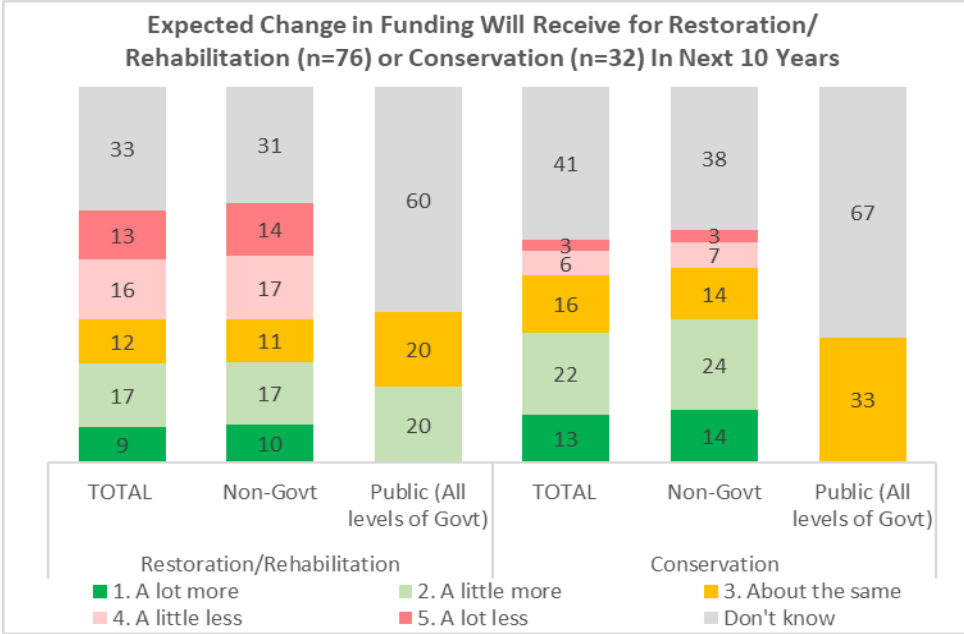
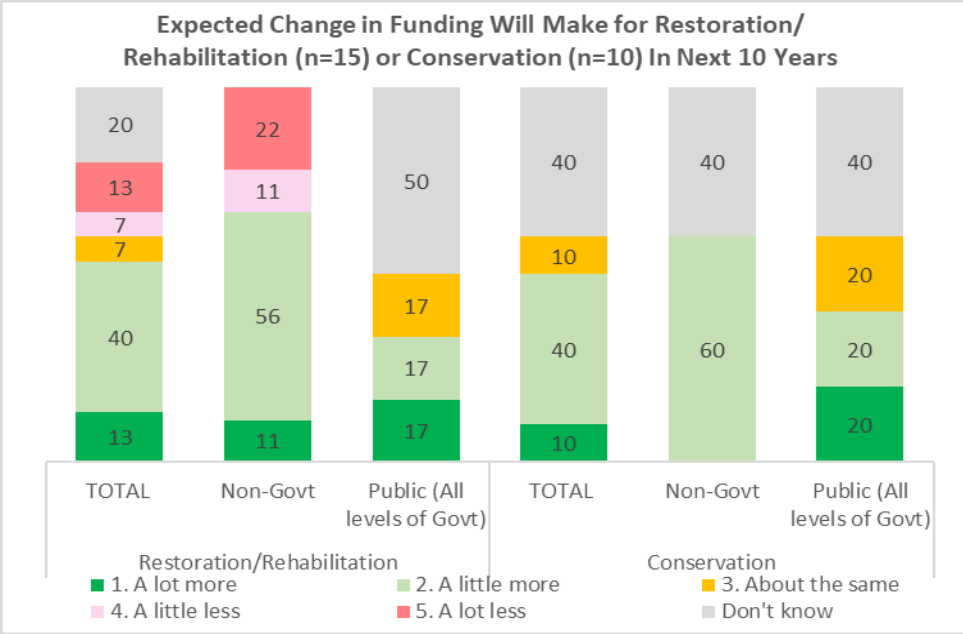
Satisfaction with Funding Received for Conservation Projects



Comparison of Funding Made/Received for Restoration or Conservation and Change Since Five Years Ago



Comparison of Expected Change in Next 1 Years in Funding Made/Received for Restoration or Conservation and Satisfaction with Funding Made/Received



Satisfaction (out of 10)	Q15A. Reason for level of Satisfaction with Funding Received for Ecological Restoration Projects
10	For us we have been successful in our applications, good success rate, not a waste of time applying, longer term projects that are easier to manage and have better outcomes
10	Received enough funding
10	Helped us to do the thing we wanted to do. Area was heavily affected and a lot of the focus of funding was related to bushfire recovery
10	Did receive funding, able to continue work they were doing
10	Really fortunate that they can apply successfully with such a large amount of money - and all that they can manage
10	Has received sufficient funding for what they wanted to do and any more funding would be for maintenance
10	Got all the funding they wanted, no complaints
10	Very satisfied to have been given anything
9	Very satisfied, got funding to do the works that they wanted to do. Lot of community education, planting and weed removal.
9	Been able to find different places to sup[port the projects they're doing
8	We were able to tap into commonwealth funding that meant could get multiple funding out of program. Put in a lot more grant applications 80-90% success rate. Applying for more grants
8	Fortunate that they can get what they get
8	Satisfied with what they got for the first time they received funding but could always get more
8	Pilot projects have been getting support, pollinator specific - making bee wreaths.
8	Because they have received a good amount of funding and in a year where they needed
8	Side benefit of their primary purpose of water quality
8	Happy with funding but could always get more
8	Matched what we were prepared to do
8	Applied for grants and got them so pretty satisfied
8	Happy with process if receiving money , but need more of it
8	Significant investment since the bushfires, wouldn't have gotten the money if there wasn't bushfires.
8	Had enough to do what we needed to do

Satisfaction (out of 10)	Q15A. Reason for level of Satisfaction with Funding Received for Ecological Restoration Projects
7	For what they do the funding is quite good
7	Impartial- they already had funding for different projects (projects already had default funding amount so hard to say how satisfied they are) - hopes it will increase bc they are applying for new projects/grants etc
7	It was a small amount of money but also a small group, so understandable. havn't really asked for more funding.
7	Funding pays for wages as well, more staff, more people with better services
7	Jumping through higher and higher hoops to receive funding at this point
7	Varies so much year-to-year territory and national
7	Got what they asked for in regard to grants but there's not enough funding happening in other areas
7	Because they are able to do some good work with their funding and the relationship with the government is positive and the management of funding is appropriate
7	Successful applications last year
7	Didn't take too much effort to get it but always super competitive with applicants
7	It would be nice to get more and do more. Funds are not for wages or costs but for groundwork.
7	There has been an increase and a greater focus on those projects, a greater understanding of the value of that work to the environment and to agriculture
6	The money we get in is money we give out. if the philanthropy movement wanted to fund ecological restoration we could do more.
6	Understand how highly contested funding can be, so happy they received any funding at all but always need to continue the work they're doing
6	Grateful to receive funds, wasn't too difficult to apply for them. not a great longevity to spend the funds on
6	Some applications that didn't go through. Less opportunities than would like to see. Local opportunities have emerged (private business) - but not govt
6	No longevity with the funding
6	Projects we have currently are good, just miss out on a lot of projects
6	Always could have more, but doing better than other networks
6	They were projects that they would like to have done but were not able to.
6	timelines are too short for project plans to be successfully achieved, need more time
6	We could have used more funding to do more work
6	Small organisation so not expecting too much funding, but could always increase staff etc
6	Got funding to do work but a lot more work we need to do

Satisfaction (out of 10)	Q15A. Reason for level of satisfaction with Funding Received for Ecological Restoration Projects
5	Understandable the amount of funding they received because of COVID, but if it was any other year they would be very unsatisfied.
5	Didn't receive any funding last year but are receiving funding for one project this financial year
5	Uncertainty of grants, and if are going to get them after all work put in
5	The inconsistency and amount of funding was just not enough. The process of applying was strenuous
5	Not much funding for ecological restoration in your area - just a small organization but always need more
5	Happy to have received some, but would always accept more
5	Grateful with funding received however the longevity and amount of funding is very limited
5	Took on a fairly large project. Money received just was too hard to get. At the point in time, don't have sufficient funds to finish the project
5	If we did have the resources to employ people to manage funds, we would be more satisfied
5	Federal funding was an issue in trying to receive grants from them
4	Doing as much as they can but can always do more with more funding
4	Big expectations, little funding for it
4	There is so much that needs to be done. Struggle to continually apply and scramble for funding. Needs to be less of a struggle to access funding
4	They do not a great lot out of the money. Rely on their own income and volunteers
4	It was good to receive funding but didn't receive nearly enough to do all the projects they wanted to do
4	As professionals, putting in enormous amount of volunteer time. Not sustainable. Trying to engage more people. Insufficient funds to expand
3	Getting funding is more difficult nowadays, labour is more for less
3	Can't deliver same level of help- to farmers as they did in the past
2	The lack of funding and lack of land-care grants. Lack of funding programs
2	Didn't get any money
2	Not enough funding - not enough focus on restoration for conservational values - not enough focus in remote areas such as the Kimberley
2	The only funding they did receive was for the tail end of the financial last year's funding. didn't receive any new funding.
2	We needed a lot more money to deliver what we wanted to
2	Very dissatisfied, lack of funding to communities which are the backbone of rural communities had no ability to compete with large organisations.
1	They just did not receive enough and had the capacity to do a lot more. Some Landcare groups are looking for projects among themselves due to lack of funding. Too much bureaucracy
1	Lot of projects and growing in number, no funding for resources to facilitate the project

Satisfaction (out of 10)	Q19A. Reason for level of satisfaction with Funding Received for Conservation Projects
10	Able to continue existing projects
9	Don't want funding for individual plant species. So satisfied with amount NOT received.
9	Funding very beneficial but process challenging in different levels of govt contradicting itself.
9	Got the funding on the back of one species - platypus - but that then opened the door for more single plant species within that area
8	Receive a lot more from federal, not much from state. Federal govt has a good working relationship
8	Very targeted areas, so the areas they work with are effective
8	They have not done any specific project until this year. To actually get the funding
7	sufficient funding for what they do
7	Had funding for projects that extended to single species. Optimistic that funding will increase
7	Varies so much year-to-year territory and national
7	Got what asked for in regard to grants but there's not enough funding happening in other areas
7	Didn't take too much effort to get it but always super competitive with applicants.
7	Pretty satisfies, could always get more funding
7	Increased focus and awareness of the value of rare and endangered single plant species
6	The money we get in is money we give out. If the philanthropy funded, could do more.
5	Understandable funding received due to COVID, but if any other year would be very unsatisfied.
5	Inconsistency and amount of funding was not enough. The process of applying was strenuous
5	Always could get more funding
5	Not as important
5	Can't use funding to employ people to manage funds
4	Lack of funding
4	Wasn't adequate to what their group had planned to do
3	Getting funding is more difficult nowadays, labour is more for less
3	Unimpressed, because it is not enough to make meaningful change
3	Only funded for one plant species for their area that is barely sufficient to hold what need to do
3	Don't know
2	Very minimal amount of funding for what was required
2	Needed more funding to do what we wanted to do
DK	Can't answer on behalf of the organisation

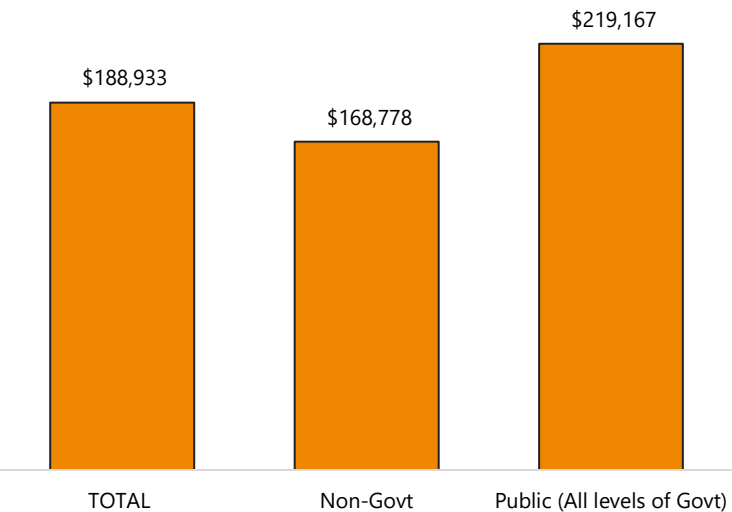
Summary of Funding Provided

- This table below shows the key metrics reported by those who were associated with organisations who provided funding. Note there were very small samples in this group.
- The amount of funding provided fell out differently from how it was reported by those who had received funding. The average value of funding made for restoration/rehabilitation projects was similar for public and non-government respondents and highest overall for conservation projects by respondents in the public sector. Non-government funding of conservation projects was small.
- In a similar manner to those who received funding, 71% respondents who had provided funding for restoration/rehabilitation reported having made the same or more funding compared to five years ago while only 40% of those funding conservation said it was more or the same.
- The expectation that their organisation would maintain or increase their funding (60% said they would) was lower, particularly for restoration/rehabilitation than was expected by recipients (38% for restoration/rehabilitation and 51% for conservation). Additional detail of these responses is given on the next page (40) for restoration and rehabilitation, and on the subsequent page (41) for single plant species conservation.
- Satisfaction with the funding they had made was lower for those who funded restoration/rehabilitation (average 5.5 out of 10 and 27% rating at 8+/10) than those who funded conservation (average 6.1 and 30% rated 8+/10). These levels were similar to those expressed by recipients of funds.
- The specific reasons linked to these ratings are presented in the table on the following page (39).

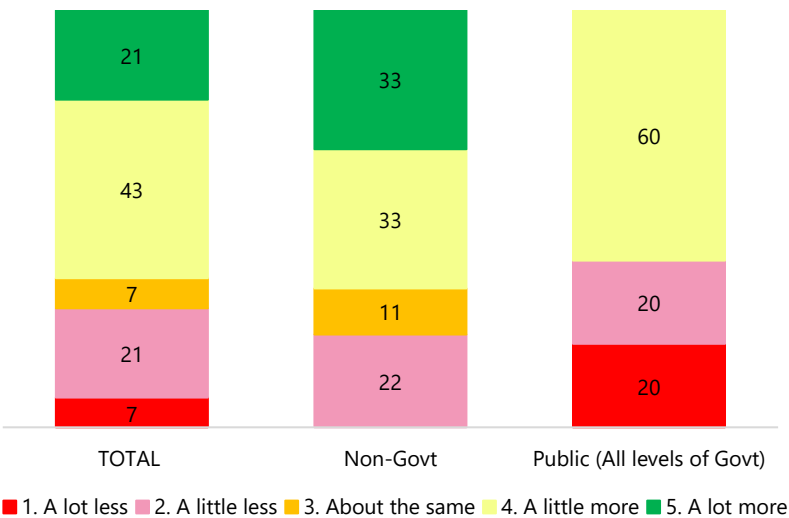
	FUNDING PROVIDED					
	Restoration or Rehabilitation Projects			Conservation Projects		
	ALL	Public	Non-Govt	ALL	Public	Non-Govt
Sample	15	9	6	10	5	5
Average amount funded in last year per respondent	\$ 188,733	\$ 168,778	\$ 219,167	\$ 155,500	\$ 253,000	\$ 58,000
Increase in funding made than 5 years ago						
% A lot/a little more funding made than 5 years ago	64%	66%	60%	30%	17%	50%
% No change compared with 5 years ago	7%	11%	0%	10%	17%	0%
Total same or more funding made than 5 years ago	71%	77%	60%	40%	34%	50%
Expectation of increase in funding made in next 10 years						
% Lot/a little more funding expected in next 10 years	53%	67%	34%	50%	60%	40%
% No change expected	7%	0%	17%	10%	0%	2%
Total expecting to make same/more funding n next 10 years	60%	67%	51%	60%	60%	60%
Satisfaction with funding made in last year						
% 8+/10 satisfaction	27%	33%	17%	30%	40%	20%
Average satisfaction out of 10	5.5	5.7	5.3	6.1	7.2	5.0

Funding Provided for Ecological Restoration or Rehabilitation (n=15)

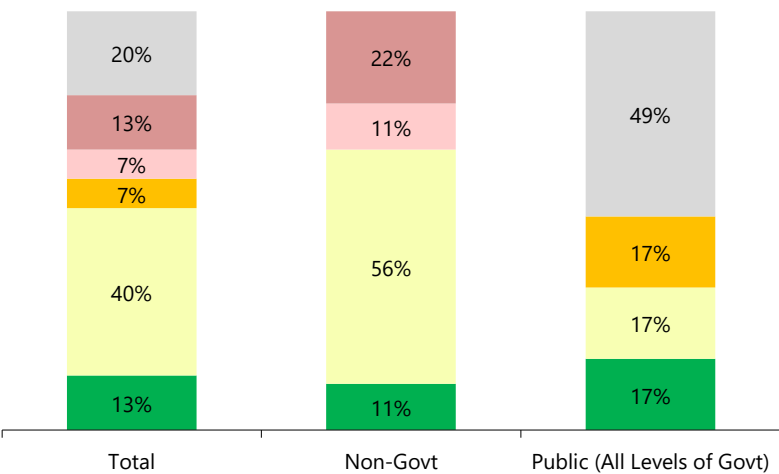
Average Amount of Funding Made for Restoration or Rehabilitation Projects This Year



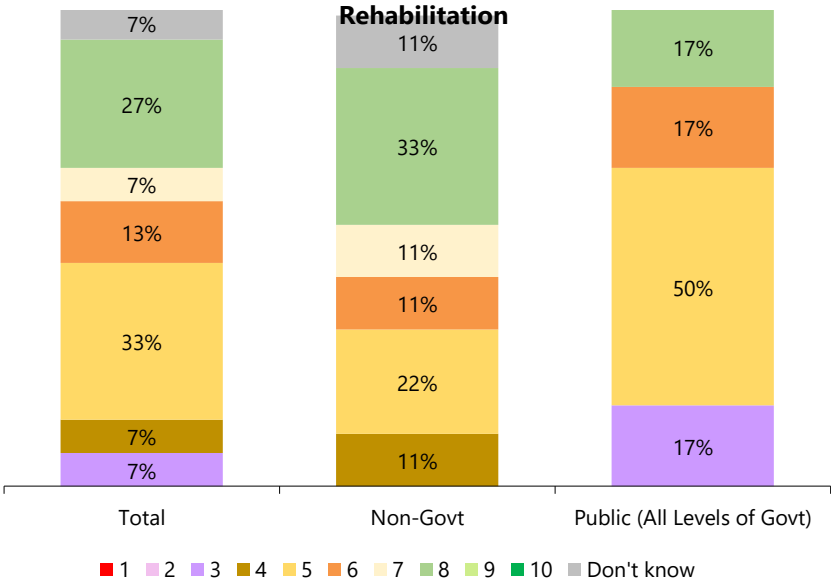
% by Amount of Funding Made for Restoration or Rehabilitation Now Compared with 5 Years Ago



% Expected Change in Amount of Funding will Provide for Restoration or Rehabilitation in next 10 years

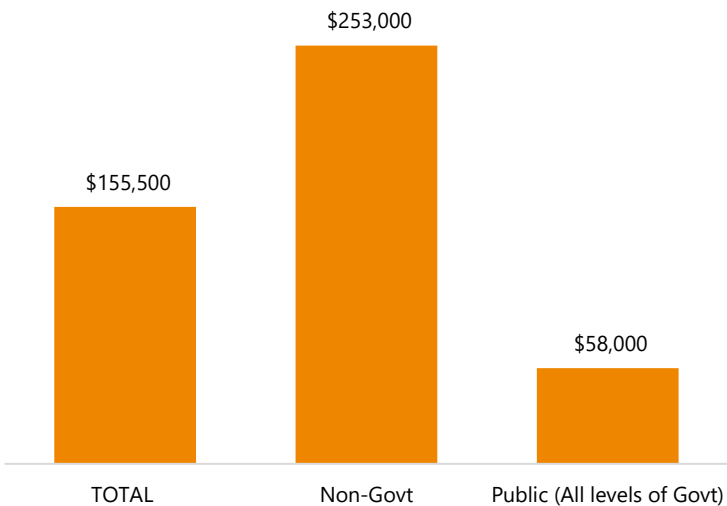


Satisfaction with Funding Made for Restoration or Rehabilitation

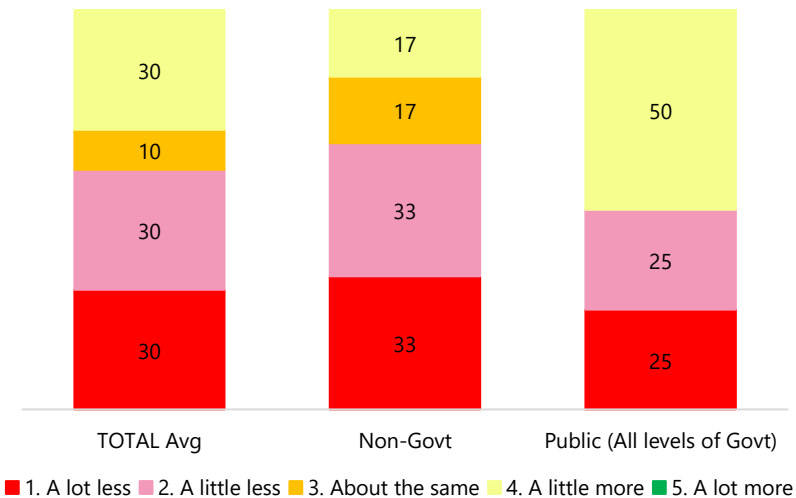


Funding Provided for Rare or Endangered Single Plant Species Conservation (n=10)

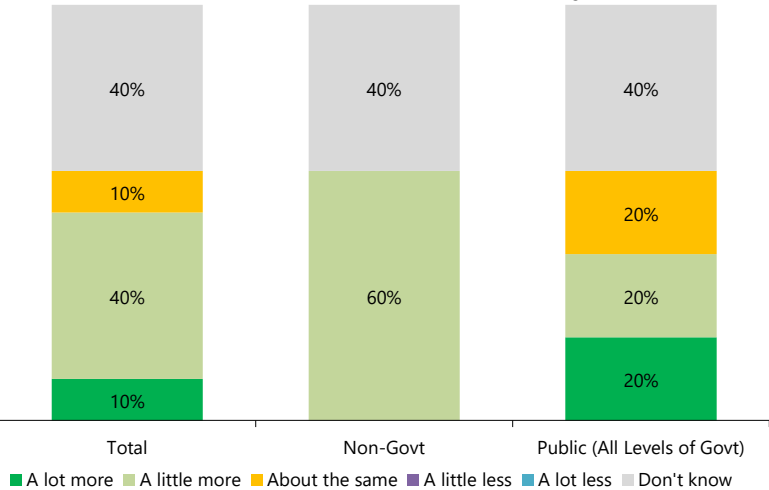
Average Amount Funded or Invested for Conservation Projects This Year



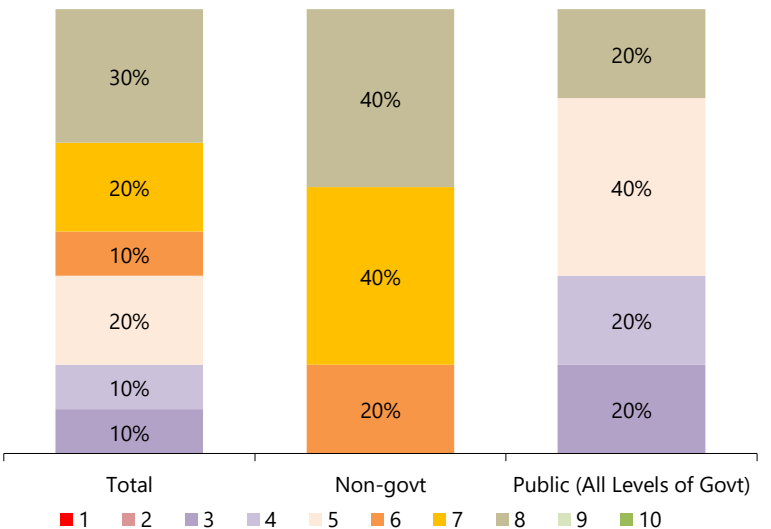
% by Amount Funded or Invested for Conservation Now Compared with 5 Years Ago



% Expected Change in Amount of Funding will Provide for Conservation in Next 10 years



Satisfaction with Funding Made for Conservation



What is the reason for your level of satisfaction with the funding you provided or received for Ecological Restoration or Conservation projects?

- Following on from the ratings of satisfaction, the funding respondents were asked for the reasons for their rating.
- Many of the respondents were involved in both restoration/rehabilitation and conservation and, typically offered the same score and reason for both. The table shows the response for both restoration and conservation for each respondent. An empty cell means that individual only provided or received funding for one of restoration or conservation.
- The comments generally show a satisfaction with current funding achievements, with several observations that more could be done with greater resources.

Satisfaction Score out of 10	Reason for level of satisfaction with the funding you provided or received for Ecological Restoration	Satisfaction Score out of 10	Reason for level of satisfaction with the funding you provided or received for Conservation
5	They do their best - but just a local organisation so they don't have a large pool of investment		
4	Scale of expectation doesn't align with they funding they can provide		
6	The money we get in is money we give out. if the philanthropy movement wanted to fund ecological restoration we could do more.	6	Same as before. If the philanthropy movement wanted to fund ecological restoration we could do more.
7	Impartial . They already had funding for different projects (projects already had default funding amount so hard to say how satisfied they are)	7	Already had funding for different projects (projects already had default funding amount so hard to say how satisfied they are)
6	Funding pays for wages as well, more staff, more people with better services	8	Very targeted areas, so the areas they work with are effective
8	Covid	8	Varies so much year to year territory and national
5	Just because it is all based on grant money so requires time and effort to apply for it and the outcome is necessarily guaranteed: the uncertainty		
8	We used funding successfully to complete a number of great projects		
8	Significant investment since the bushfires, wouldn't have gotten the money if there wasn't bushfires.		
3	Can't deliver the same amount of support to their farmers as they used to be able to	3	Again, can't deliver same level of help- to farmers as they did in the past
5	Not great but all funding is good for other organisations	4	Not so involved in the funding for this sector
5	Pretty satisfied but could always do with more funding	5	Again, pretty satisfied, but could always do with more money
		7	if there was more coming in, we could always do more with, but pretty satisfied with current funding
5	Hard to keep up with availability of funding	5	Can't use the funding to employ people to manage the funds
		8	The process had some issues and figuring out where the funding was going
8	There has been a substantial movement toward rehab work		

Applications for Funding

Q21/Q23. How many applications for funding were made in last five years that were unsuccessful?

- For ecological restoration, 52 respondents each averaged 21 unsuccessful grant applications, with the wide range of 1 to 400 unsuccessful applications per respondent.
- For plant species conservation, 14 respondents averaged 15 unsuccessful grant applications each, with the wide range of 1 to 50 unsuccessful applications per respondent.
- The following page lists the reasons given by respondents for applications for restoration not being successful.
- The subsequent page lists the reasons given by respondents for applications for conservation not being successful.
- In both cases, competition for limited funds was the key issue with other mentions of not getting feedback about why they were unsuccessful and proposals missing the mark.

Unsuccessful Applications for Funding in Last Five Years	Ecological Restoration	Conservation
Average # of unsuccessful applications	21	15
Range per respondent	1-400	1-50
Sample	52	14

Applications for Funding

Q21A What were the main reasons for an application not being funded for ecological restoration project?

Competition	Just don't fit with local government plan. Not considered a priority.
Competition from other organisations, there's only so much funding that can go around. One case they didn't want to fund the entire project	Lack of funds
Competition, high application rates	Did not get feedback
Competitive funding pool	No straight answers, usually they are rated and do not compare to the ratings of other applications, try to make application fit requirements
Competitive nature of the funding and oversubscription to the grants, nothing wrong with application, but the competition was too high	Not enough funding to go around - oversubscribed
High competition, more popular to apply now	Not enough money in the bucket - highly competitive
Highly competitive pools and over subscriptions	Not having enough funding to give out, or competition
Highly competitive programs. Jurisdiction (ACT gets funded less easily than other jurisdictions for Commonwealth programs). Programs available not specific to target.	Council liked the idea but wanted to combine it with another grant and gave all of the funding to another group aligned with the council. Other wasn't successful but said they should speak to someone else and never got back to them.
Highly competitive, don't have the red listed species.	Majority of the refusals are simply due to over-subscription. there was only one where it was believed their application was not relevant. it was too competitive
Highly competitive, there's a lot of people trying to access the same bucket of money	Sometimes the level of competition - number of applications meant not everyone can receive funding.
Mostly competition, didn't have any funding left or didn't meet the criteria	Suspects the money goes to organisations with the right bureaucracy.
Nothing specific just very competitive	The feedback received is that there were a large number of applicants. Rarely specific about any fault with the application - usually just highly competitive. Some organisations may have more insight, and connections.
Grants were too competitive because there was not enough funding	The funding program was oversubscribed - too many applicants
Can't think of any reason, long lists of applicants more just a stab in the dark	There is a lot competition for the funding and it needs to be shared. Less than 20% go through
Depends what the particular funded project is seeking and whether or not your project aligns with their interests	Too many applicants for a small pool funds
Didn't align with the grant guidelines, other applicants were more applicable	Too many applicants, grants were too small, needed bigger funds to do what they want to do. More funding for workshops and communications rather than actual material for site work.
Don't disclose, probably because competition is large	Too much competition for funding. Demand was much higher than the funding supply
Either applied to grants that weren't necessarily applicable, or too much competition	Too much competition for the available pool. Landcare grant opportunities are oversubscribed
Generally not a lot of feedback	Too small of a funding pool for a lot of subscribers ; funding spread too thin
Honestly can't expand - never followed it up	Wasn't enough money to be provided that the organisation wanted. Too much competition.
In one case the govt dept just didn't want to provide the funding as manager "didn't feel like it". Competition is another issue. Applications get scored on how applicable they are to the funding so organisations are always fighting over the same cause.	What they applied for did not quite fit the funding requirements. Also highly competitive for specific reasons
Limited available funds and more important projects elsewhere. The FRRR was one they got. Mostly they are successful.	Lack of community participation
Did not get feedback	
They didn't like the proposal- she's not sure why they were unsuccessful- too competitive	

Applications for Funding

Q23A What were the main reasons for an application not being funded for conservation project?

Q23A - Why funded refused for conservation
Competition
All programs are highly subscribed and highly competitive, projects might just not quite fit the priorities for the funding received
Suspects the money goes to organisations with the right bureaucracy.
Didn't align with the grant guidelines, other applicants were more applicable
Over subscribed, competition was too high
Too much competition nowadays
Just too competitive
Don't know
After the bushfires she was looking for a lot of funding because they were really impacted. She put in for funding. Landcare kept hassling her, but they never got the money
Outside the priority conservation areas



Other Comments

- A range of comments were made about the funding process, the amount of funding and the administration of schemes.
- Many of these comments mirror the responses given to questions 2 and 3 'Why did you say there was sufficient or insufficient investment ...'
- Improvements in the funding application and administration process were suggested by many respondents who commented on difficulties in negotiating the processes and their complexity. Other key points here include funding is insufficient for meaningful change, longer-term commitment is required, a holistic approach is needed, best to avoid harm to avoid restoration costs and effort.
- All individual comments are provided as part of the deliverables for this survey

Other Comments

Q24 – Other comments about funding of restoration or conservation projects. (% by theme. n=82)

	Total	Non-Govt Organisation	Public Organisation
Funding is extremely low / not enough to make meaningful change	17	16	29
Would like to see longer term commitments / projects need ongoing follow up / ongoing support, not just financial	9	8	14
Get a better result if you attack problems in a holistic manner and funding programs should reflect that	6	7	
Funding for administration / need more staff / streamlining of reporting	6	7	
Favourable comments	6	7	
Funding application process is difficult and time consuming / Federal Government's ecological restoration plans take too long for approval, implementation	5	5	
Needs to be directed at the local level / more flexibility at local level	4	4	
Needs to be more targeted - a lot of the funding available goes to people who don't use it properly / Funding in across multiple government jurisdiction / such as large b	4	4	
Landcare lacks funding and resources	4	4	
Emphasis and research on water management / landscape needs to be managed	2	3	
Concerns for specific ecosystems e.g. riparian / Avon River	2	1	14
Federal and State government to be proactive in strategic planning to ensure the most urgent ecological issues in relation to restoring habitat were addressed	2	3	
There is a lack of interest in the environment / only 2 departments related to rehab and conservation	2	3	
Funding to specific areas is politically motivated e.g. Western Sydney	2	3	
More engagement with first nations knowledge / better results when community is involved	2	3	
Bushfire recovery funding was weighted toward the east coast, WA was sort of forgotten about	1	1	
It's going to become more difficult and complex with climate change. Ecosystems will need more active restoration	1	1	
Need more protection of existing habitats because it is so labour and time intensive to bring back destroyed habitat	1	1	
Restoration in agricultural landscapes doesn't always fit the government criteria so it's hard to receive funding	1	1	
Needs a lot more educating in the general public	1	1	
Desperately looking for younger generations getting involved.	1	1	
None / no / nothing / N/A	7	5	29
Other	4	4	
Do not know / unsure	41	43	29



Opt-ins for Future Contact

- 78 of the 82 respondents agreed to provide their details for future contact.
- A spreadsheet is provided with all the details.
- Of interest, the data includes suggestions of other organisations to contact which may add to the list of organisations.
- As it is such a large proportion of the sample, the profile will match the analysis of the respondents in this report.

End of Report



kg2.com.au
Level 2, 619 Pacific Hwy
St Leonards NSW 2065

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Key Contacts

ADAM MCNEILL Bbus
Managing Director
amcneill@kg2.com.au
02 9191 9840 / 0412 219 866

PAT HEASLIP BA
Head of Research
pat@kg2.com.au
0417 654 045

IAN CRANWELL BA, Post Grad
Dip Env. Studies
Senior Consultant Data Insights
icranwell@kg2.com.au
0419 483 588

JOHN CAMPBELL
B.Sc.(Agr.)
Data Analyst
jcampbell@kg2.com.au
0481 096 401

LUCINDA DUNN
BScAg(Hons)
Research Analyst
ldunn@kg2.com.au