

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio**

**Question No:** 121  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Division/Agency:** Trade Market Access and International Division  
**Topic:** Pacific Ocean Litter Project  
**Question Date:** 28 October 2020  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart and Senator Dodson asked:**

1. What is the current status of the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP)?
2. What milestones have been reached since the project was established in 2019?
3. How much money has been expended through the POLP in the years 19-20 & 20-21?
4. Please provide a breakdown of the major expenses incurred for the POLP in the years 19-20 & 20-21.

**Answer:**

The POLP is an active project. Planned implementation of a number of activities has been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 on the Pacific Region. Selection of pilot countries has been delayed, as has implementation of a range of community, government and business interventions. COVID-19 disruptions have also forced a change in the delivery model, and a new project team is being recruited into Samoa to re-start the project. Some re-design of the project activities is required to better meet the challenges and circumstances associated with COVID-19. For example, POLP is likely to bring forward work with the tourism sector, with a view to helping this sector adjust its plastic footprint as travel and tourism opens up again in the Pacific.

2.

- Co-contributions to two regional scale exercises [November 2020]
  - Legislative review and assessment of waste management across 14 Pacific countries
  - National waste audits
- Inception Workshop with Pacific countries [February 2020]
- Design workshops with SPREP and other donors (UK, Japan, EU) [April 2019, September 2019, December 2019]

3. \$679,905 and \$124,448 respectively.

4. **2019-2020**

<b>Expenses (&gt;\$30,000)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$)</b>
Implementation Manager	346,057
DAWE Technical and Partnership Management	223,653
Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy	38,969
Project Design	33,764

**2020-2021 (to September)**

<b>Expenses (&gt;\$30,000)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$)</b>
Implementation Manager	56,324
DAWE Technical and Partnership Management	68,704