



Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Responses to Questions on Notice tabled at the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts, enquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate on Friday, 12 October 2012

Q: In response to a questions from Ms Marino (page 17) you undertook to provide information on whether there is any additional or practical research happening (discussion, suggestions or ideas) into mitigation strategies that land managers can use for managing the effects of extreme weather events (such as floods and cyclones).

A: Government has invested in climate change adaptation programs to support industries and farmers. These programs help by providing them with the tools and information they need to be able to manage for predicted changes in climate and maintain the resilience of farming land. The GBRMPA does not have specific information on these tools/ strategies but further information can be obtained from the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection including their web site on climate change at: <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/climatechange/index.html>

Q: In response to questions from Ms Hall (page 18) you undertook to provide some information on whether GBRMPA would or should have a role to play in the implementation and planning of any expansions of national marine protected areas, and whether expansion could impact on the sustainability of the GBR.

A: The GBRMPA is not involved in the planning or implementation of the 'Commonwealth marine reserves network', including the 'Coral Sea Reserve'. Given that there are ecological connections between the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea it makes sense that improved protection of the Coral Sea would provide a degree of benefit to the Great Barrier Reef, but this issue has not been the subject of explicit research.