

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 116
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Director of National Parks (DNP)
Topic: Management costs for reserves
Hansard Page: 55
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Leyonhjelm asked:

Senator LEYONHJELM: What sort of ratio would be reasonable?

Ms Barnes: I could not answer that question.

Senator LEYONHJELM: How about expenditure per hectare?

Ms Barnes: I can get back to you on that. We could do a crude division of the budget by the number of hectares, but, as I said, that would not give you a very good indication of the effectiveness of the use of the public funds.

Answer:

The Director of National Parks does not use expenditure per hectare as a ratio for management of the reserve estate. A per hectare ratio is not considered reasonable, nor would it assist management decision making given the vast differences in size between many of the reserves. This is particularly the case if comparing the size of marine reserves to terrestrial reserves. Resource and infrastructure investment cannot be aligned directly to the size of a reserve and therefore a cost per hectare analysis would distort the required investment.