

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

Question No: 144
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: World Heritage Committee - ASL
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: So how many working days have you spent undertaking that?

Dr de Brouwer: We have been working continually. **Dr Dripps:** Probably, as part of the answer to the question about how many ASL, we could pick up that question on notice.

Senator WATERS: Again, do either of you have a ballpark estimation?

Dr de Brouwer: It is something that we have an ongoing team working on; I do not have a ballpark figure. **Senator WATERS:** How many are on the ongoing team? Senator

Birmingham: It is important to note the policy work that is undertaken, and that includes policy work in relation to working with the World Heritage Committee around supporting the reef, would be quite minor by comparison with the very significant investments through GBRMPA, through the department and with the Queensland government in the overall management and ongoing protection of the reef. I can see where you are attempting to go. I am sure if the government did not engage with the World Heritage Committee, you or others would be eager to criticise the government. You can criticise us for engaging too much with the World Heritage Committee if you want, but that is part of the value of the policy proposition of making sure that all of the strategies and programs designed to work on the protection of the reef are adequate and successful and, yes, that the World Heritage Committee understands all that we are doing in that respect. **Senator WATERS:** Thank you. Just coming back to that ongoing team you mentioned, how many staff are on that? **Mr Thompson:** We will take that on notice. As Dr Dripps indicated before—

Answer:

The Department has an ongoing team of 4.8 Full Time Equivalent staff who manage Australia's relationship with the World Heritage Committee on Australia's 19 World Heritage properties.