

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

**Question No:** 45  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Necropsies of stranded whales in South Australia  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 23 February 2015  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Wright asked:**

As the Department may be aware, there have been a number of recent whale strandings in South Australia. The most recent stranded beaked whales were collected by the South Australian Museum to conduct necropsies to try and determine the reason behind the strandings. However, it has emerged that the South Australian Museum does not have funding to do the necropsies and at least one whale carcass is being stored somehow in Adelaide while funding is being sought.

Has the Department considered offering any financial support to the South Australian Museum to conduct necropsies of recently stranded beaked whales in South Australia – particularly given the government's focus on strandings in its whale and dolphin action plan?

**Answer:**

No, the Department of the Environment has not considered offering any financial support to the South Australian Museum to conduct necropsies on whales.

In state and territory waters (within 3 nautical miles of the coastline), it is the responsibility of the state and territory governments to protect and manage whales and dolphins. This includes responding to cetacean incidents such as entanglement and stranding events.

The Australian Government through the National Whale Stranding Action Plan will support state and Northern Territory government agencies by providing funding for staff to undertake training that will assist in responding to stranding and entanglements, as well as equipment.