

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

**Question No:** 16  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Hammerhead Sharks  
**Hansard Page:** 114  
**Question Date:** 08 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Siewert asked:**

**Senator SIEWERT:** ... I am particularly interested in the recent decision over hammerhead sharks. You apparently funded a project entitled 'Establishing the status of Australia's hammerhead sharks', to be conducted by the National Environmental Science Programme. Is that correct?

**Mr Oxley:** I am not sure that I am able to confirm or otherwise in relation to that specific project. I am happy to take it on notice.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Could you take it on notice. Because of that research, the assessment of nominations under the EPBC Act for the scalloped, great and smooth hammerhead sharks has been postponed? I presume that, since you cannot answer the first question, you cannot answer this question?

**Mr Oxley:** That is correct.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Could you take that on notice please. ...

**Answer:**

A Hammerhead shark project, entitled 'Exploring the status of Australia's hammerhead sharks' is being undertaken by the Marine Biodiversity Hub under the National Environmental Science Programme (NESP). The report for this project has not yet been finalised. The purpose of the project is to summarise available information on hammerhead sharks and detail any knowledge gaps.

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) is assessing scalloped, great and smooth hammerhead sharks for their eligibility for inclusion on the list of threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (1999). The original completion date for the assessments was 30 September 2015. This was extended to 30 September 2017. While outputs from the NESP project will inform the listing assessments, the extension was sought by the TSSC to allow sufficient time for analysis and consultation with State and Territory government agencies.