

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

Question No: 256
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
Topic: Townsville Air Force Base
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 24 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. Have you met with the ADF environmental impact section?
2. Are there any compliance, mitigation or other measures under consideration? Have any been taken already?

Answer:

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has a strong collaborative relationship with the Department of Defence to ensure that all Defence activities within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are well planned, well resourced and are of a high environmental standard. This approach is encapsulated in a Memorandum of Understanding on "Management of Defence Activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Region" the agency has with the Department of Defence.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Department of Defence meet on an annual basis to discuss matters of mutual environmental interest.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority through discussions with the Department of Defence is not aware of any specific releases of firefighting foam into the Great Barrier Reef associated with the operation of the Townsville Air Force Base.