

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

**Question No:** 267  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Reef Trust special account  
**Hansard Page:** 6  
**Question Date:** 04 March 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** Question on notice No. 28 from the recent estimates asked:

1. How do non-government funds get deposited into the Reef Trust Special account, that is to say what is the mechanism for moving private funds into the special account?
2. Which, if any, agencies or ministers need to approve this?

Your answer said that you were 'finalising arrangements that will present opportunities to potential investors.' Have those arrangements been finalised?

**Ms Parry:** I will have to take that on notice as we have not receipted any private funding through the Reef Trust yet. Again, it would depend on the mechanism—whether or not it is an offset, which would be slightly different than a private and philanthropic donation. As we have not yet receipted any money through the Reef Trust through either of those I do not have a final answer for you on that.

**Answer:**

Funding from non-government entities can be received by the Reef Trust Special Account and will be managed in accordance with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), the PGPA Act (Reef Trust Special Account 2014) Determination 01, the *Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines*, and the *Guidelines for the Management of Special Accounts*.

Arrangements to accept private contributions to the Reef Trust from non-government entities will be in line with the Australian Government Charging Framework. The relevant guidelines under this Framework, the *Accepting Sponsorship Guide*, outline the sponsorship considerations and best-practice processes for accepting private and philanthropic donations.

Where funds are to be paid into the Reef Trust Special Account by non-government entities, the Department will provide prospective donors with the required information to make a deposit, which may include issuing an invoice for payment.

All funding received and delivered by the Reef Trust Special Account is approved by the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Finance.