

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 290
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Director of National Parks
Topic: Public submissions to the Marine Reserves review
Hansard Page: 80
Question Date: 27 February 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Kakoschki-Moore asked:

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: In which case I would understand if they said, 'I send this in confidentially,' but if you could take on notice the reason why it was decided not to make it public that would be great.

Ms Barnes: I am happy to get back to you.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Thank you.

Answer:

There have been a number of public comment periods associated with Commonwealth marine reserves, including those received as part of the independent Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review and those received as part of the 'notice of intent' period (which is the first of two statutory consultation periods required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* prior to finalising Commonwealth reserves management plans):

- Comments received as part of the review—all public submissions are publicly available, except those that requested confidentiality, at:
www.environment.gov.au/marinereservesreview/written-submissions
- Comments received as part of the 'notice of intent' period—the 54,322 submissions received were not made publicly available due to privacy and commercial-in-confidence information that may have been provided to the Director. The Director will however prepare a summary report on issues raised through the consultation period that will be publicly available during the next phase of consultation. A list of campaigns received is provided at Table 1 below. The text of some of these campaigns remain available online at the relevant organisations' websites.

Table 1. Campaigns received as part of the ‘notice of intent’ period

Campaign	Count	Sector
Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)	19259	Conservation
AMCS Do you fish	6402	Conservation; recreational fishing
World Wildlife Fund for Nature	8435	Conservation
AMCS business statements	13	Conservation
The Wilderness Society	1374	Conservation
Greenpeace	12971	Conservation
AMCS (postcards)	1079	Conservation
Save Bremer	343	Conservation
Coral Sea business statement (letter with signatories)	171	Conservation
Northwest campaign (via DoGooder)	76	Conservation
Western Australia business statement (letter with signatories)	474	Conservation
International Fund for Animal Welfare	180	Conservation
South West business statement (letter with signatories)	202	Conservation
Norfolk Council of Elders	17	Norfolk Island
Sea Life postcards	552	Conservation
Sea Life petition	2562	Conservation
Total	54110	

- Comments to be received as part of consultation on draft management plans—while yet to commence, the Director is exploring opportunities to make submissions available after she receives them. Further, the Director will also prepare a report that outlines and considers comments received from public consultation that will be provided to the Minister along with final management plans. This report will be tabled in Parliament along with management plans and will be available to the public.