

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

Question No: 328

Hearing: Additional Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Program: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: Global factors

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Question Date: 6 March 2017

Question Type: Written

Senator Roberts asked:

Is it true, sensible and credible to believe that global factors are driving damage to just one portion of the GBR and not to others?

Answer:

The Great Barrier Reef stretches 2,300 kilometres from just north of Bundaberg to the northern tip of Queensland. On the Great Barrier Reef, conditions which lead to bleaching, such as higher-than-average sea surface temperatures, are influenced at a broad scale by global climatology. However, due to the size of the Reef, conditions often vary at regional and local scales due to factors such as local weather conditions and ocean current circulation.