

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

**Question No:** 97  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** World Ocean Summit  
**Hansard Page:** 113 and 114  
**Question Date:** 06 March 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Whish-Wilson asked:**

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Previously we have strictly been told to ask questions around recycling schemes in the others. In terms of what we are doing in marine plastics I know that Four Corners has a program on right at the moment, which I cannot see unfortunately. There was the World Ocean Summit in Bali last week. Did we have anyone there and have there been any outcomes from that conference that you would like to share with us?

Mr Knudson: Unfortunately I am not aware whether we had officers on the ground, but that is something obviously that we can take on notice and come back on what we are trying to do on ocean plastics et cetera.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: There is a report that the Indonesian environment minister was declaring war on plastics in the ocean. I am glad to hear that because they are a big source of it, unfortunately. I would be very interested to know if there have been any developments in the threat abatement plans. This committee had a fantastic inquiry last year into the threat of marine plastics. The plans still have not been finalised or were certainly being completely redone. Has there been any work completed on that at all?

Mr Knudson: Unfortunately I do not know the specifics on that, so we would have to come back, like you said, to answer the question.

**Answer:**

1. One representative from the Department of the Environment and Energy attended the World Ocean Summit, hosted in Bali on February 22-24, to progress the work of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon.
2. A range of initiatives were announced at the Summit including on plastics, reefs and mangroves. For example, Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, announced a \$1 billion, five year plan to reduce plastic bags and the UN announced a Clean Seas campaign for reducing plastics.
3. The draft 'Threat abatement plan for the impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine species' was released for public comment for three months and the closing date for submissions is 13 April 2017.