

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

Question No: 23
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: THREAT ABATEMENT PLAN
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 10 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

1. When is the Threat Abatement Plan due to be reviewed and what measures will be used to assess it?
2. Will the assessment of the Threat Abatement Plan be made public and when will it be released?

Answer:

1. The *Threat abatement plan for the impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine life* is due to be reviewed in 2014. The review will assess whether the threat abatement plan provides a feasible, effective and efficient way to abate the key threatening process of *Injury and fatality to vertebrate marine life caused by ingestion of, or entanglement in, harmful marine debris*. The review will assess the progress, and effectiveness of progress, across all actions in the threat abatement plan. In undertaking the review, the Department of the Environment will consult with government, industry and community experts and researchers in the field. The Minister for the Environment will also consider the advice of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.
2. The review report will be published and made publicly available on the Department of the Environment website. The review report will be published after it is considered by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee and the Minister for the Environment.

If, after considering the review, the Minister decides to revise the *Threat abatement plan for the impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine life*, a revised plan will be developed in consultation with stakeholders and experts and released for a 3 month public comment period. The Minister will also consider the advice of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.