

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

**Question No:** 259  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
**Topic:** ABBOT POINT  
**Hansard Page:** 55  
**Question Date:** 27 May 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters asked:**

Senator WATERS: And did GBRMPA have the opportunity to brief the minister directly on the Abbot Point proposal?

Mr Knudson: I think that is a question that should be best directed towards the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority when they appear later on this evening.

Senator WATERS: I will ask them as well, but I am interested in—

Dr Dripps: What we can say without the benefit of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority being here is that the minister travelled to Queensland early in the term of being the minister and that he travelled to a range of sites along the coast of Queensland, including Abbot Point, and that he had extensive briefings with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as part of that trip.

Senator WATERS: Okay. What dates were those?

Dr Dripps: I do not recall.

Senator WATERS: Is that prior to the approval decision?

Dr Dripps: We will take that on notice.

Senator Birmingham: Yes, I am pretty sure it was prior to the decision.

Senator WATERS: Was it after November?

Dr Dripps: We will take the date on notice, Senator.

**Answer:**

On 30 October 2013 the Hon Minister Hunt; Minister for the Environment; visited the Abbot Point coal terminal where he met with the fishing industry, tourism operators and business representatives. On 1 November 2013 Minister Hunt visited Townville where he received extensive briefings on Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority programs, particularly the strategic assessment. These briefings did not include a briefing on the Abbot Point proposal.