

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

Question No: 263
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: GBRMPA Operating Budget
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Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: On that core funding, given that I understand it has not been indexed, what has been the reduction in real terms to GBRMPA's core operating budget?

Mr Barrett: We do receive indexation and we also are subject to the efficiency dividend. At the moment, the two balance each other out.

Senator WATERS: So there has not been an increase in funding over those 14 years, because whatever has been indexed has been lost.

Mr Barrett: The total funding has certainly increased in the last eight years. I would have to go back and look at the details of the appropriation.

Senator WATERS: Would you mind taking that on notice?

Answer:

In many ways the figures from 14 years ago are not directly comparable to the current budget due to changes in Commonwealth Government Budgeting. The funding in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 would have included amounts in relation to accrual budgeted practices at the time. Up until 2009-10 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and other agencies received appropriation supplementation for depreciation. This was replaced with the Departmental Capital Budget in 2010-11 and new processes for capital funding.

Over the last 14 years GBRMPA has received funding from the Commonwealth Government through Departmental appropriations, Equity Injections, the Special Appropriation derived from the Environmental Management Charge (EMC), the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT), the Caring for Our Country Program, the Reef Rescue Program and the National Landcare Program.

The amount of funding under the various appropriations and programmes has varied. For example:

- Significant additional funding was received in 2004-05 through the NHT for implementation of the new Zoning Plan;
- There was a significant increase in appropriation to increase the Commonwealth contribution for field management in 2007-08;
- In 2010-11 and 2011-12 GBRMPA received an increase in appropriation to implement a new measure for Ensuring the Resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. In 2012-13 and

2013-14 this measure was funding through the Caring for Our Country Program. From 2014-15 the measure will be funded from the National Landcare Program.

- GBRMPA is also funded through the Special Appropriation derived from the EMC. The EMC is indexed in accordance with a formulae linked to increases in CPI. The Standard EMC was reduced in 2012-13 with the impact of the reduction in the amount collected being offset by an increase in GBRMPA's appropriation.

Details of Departmental and Special Appropriation since 2003-04 are set out below:

(Source: GBRMPA Annual reports)

Financial Year	Departmental Appropriation \$'000	Special Appropriation \$'000	Total \$'000
2003-04	16,117	5,996	22,113
2004-05	16,394	7,581	23,975
2005-06	15,444	7,272	22,716
2006-07	16,158	7,246	23,046
2007-08	21,417	8,027	29,444
2008-09	21,020	7,478	28,498
2009-10	20,366	7,599	27,965
2010-11	22,796	7,304	30,100
2011-12	23,128	7,851	30,979
2012-13	22,690	5,249	27,939
2013-14	23,949	4,800	28,749
2014-15	21,847	5,000	26,847