

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

**Question No:** 275  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)  
**Topic:** GBRMPA CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ACTION PLAN  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 17 June 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

GBRMPA's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, which was \$900,000 in 2012-13, has been axed. But what was involved in that program to date?

Does this mean that GBRMPA is no longer able to fund work on what the Reef needs to adapt or survive climate change?

**Answer:**

The 'Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2012' received \$9m in funding (\$1.8m per year for five years; half in Administered and half in Departmental funding). The Plan was structured around four core objectives:

- targeted science;
- a resilient Great Barrier Reef Ecosystem;
- adaptation of industries and regional communities; and
- reducing climate footprints.

More than 250 projects and activities took place over the five years. These are outlined in the report 'Climate Change Adaptation: Outcomes from the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2012' (available at <http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/handle/11017/1139>).

In 2012, the GBRMPA refreshed its approach to climate change adaptation and released the 'Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2012-2017)', based on an expanded set of objectives:

- a resilient Great Barrier Reef ecosystem;
- adaptation of industries and communities;
- action on climate change;
- strategic science;
- effective communication; and
- strong stewardship.

The new plan received two years of funding in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 (\$1.8m per year) and funding will cease on 30 June 2014.

Climate change represents the greatest long-term threat to the health of the Great Barrier Reef and the communities and industries that depend on it. Climate change is a key consideration in the Strategic Assessment, the Program Report, and the Outlook Report 2014.

As such, climate change considerations have been taken into account in all relevant areas of the GBRMPA's business. The climate change adaptation is still a theme of the GBRMPA's work and the objectives of the 'Adaptation Strategy' are still guiding the GBRMPA's work plan.