

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

**Question No:** 40  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** 1.4  
**Topic:** SEC COMMITTEE REPORT - TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA  
**Hansard Page:** 23  
**Question Date:** 27 May 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

Senator URQUHART: Has the department undertaken any analysis of potential further work should the proposal be rejected?

Dr Dripps: We would plan any future work that was needed to be done after we had the decision of the World Heritage Committee. As was covered in the evidence to that Senate inquiry, there are four possible outcomes that could occur: Australia's request could be accepted; Australia's request could be rejected; the decision could be referred back to the state party for more work; or it could be deferred the future consideration by the World Heritage Committee.

Senator URQUHART: So have you taken into account what work you would need to do if it was rejected or it was not in line with the policy at the moment?

Dr Dripps: We are in the process of planning next year's work and we will finalise that after we have the decision of the World Heritage Committee.

Senator URQUHART: Are you able to provide that when you have done that?

Dr Dripps: Certainly—we can provide a response to that.

**Answer:**

On 23 June 2014 the World Heritage Committee decided to not accept Australia's request for a minor boundary modification to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. As a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, Australia respects the decision of the World Heritage Committee.