

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

Question No: 52
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: CAPE YORK PENINSULA WORLD HERITAGE LISTING
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 17 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

In your response to my QoN #30 from the February estimates I was advised that “a restructure in the Division that provides oversight for the Department’s involvement in world heritage nominations, including Cape York Peninsula, has resulted in a reduction of FTE on the project [that is, all World Heritage nominations] from 5.8 to 1.5”(QoN #30) .

How many “nomination projects” are currently on foot? Does this include Cape York?

Is the Government genuinely committed to progressing the Cape York WHA nomination with 1.5 staff?

- a) How long is it expected to take?
- b) What are the next steps?

Answer:

There are currently two World Heritage Nomination processes underway, namely Cape York Peninsula(in conjunction with the Queensland Government) and Royal National Park (In conjunction with the NSW Government).

Additionally two World Heritage extension processes are on the World Heritage Tentative List. These are:

- The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area
- Great Sandy World Heritage Area

The Commonwealth Government is committed to progressing a Cape York WHA nomination. The Government’s view is that a nomination will only proceed with the support of relevant parties, including the Queensland Government, traditional owners, industry, private landholders and more broadly, the Cape York community.

- a) Due to consultation processes and procedural requirements, World Heritage nomination is likely to take several years.
- b) Discussions are being held with the Queensland Government on ways to progress a potential nomination, including in relation to further consultation with Traditional Owners.