

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

**Question No:** 104  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1.4  
**Programme:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** International Obligations - Japanese whaling program  
**Hansard Page:**  
**Question Date:**  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

1. I want to talk about our international obligations briefly, noting that the IWC Scientific Committee meeting is currently underway in the US [as of late-May]. How many ministerial representations have been made by the Government to Japan about its plan to resume Southern Ocean whaling?
2. How many Ministerial meetings have there been?
3. Which Ministers have met with the Japanese Government and have raised this issue, on how many occasions and at what forums?

**Answer:**

1. Japan released the outline of its 'Proposed Plan for the New Scientific Whale Research Program in the Antarctic Ocean' (NEWREP-A) on 18 November 2014. Since that time, there have been two ministerial meetings at which NEWREP-A has been discussed.
2. Two.
3. The Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, discussed NEWREP-A with Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Minoru Kiuchi, on 10 March 2015 in Tokyo. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Steven Ciobo, also discussed NEWREP-A with Mr Kiuchi during his visit to Japan on 21 April 2015.