

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

Question No: 136
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Reef Trust Offset payments
Hansard Page: 107
Question Date: 26 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: The details about how the offset payments will be calculated—has that been worked out yet or is that still part of this finalisation?

Mr Thompson: Clearly we would be working off the existing offsets calculator with the new EPBC Act. But it is a good question you asked, because one of the things we are giving consideration to is whether that needs to be modified. It is very heavily a terrestrial focused calculator, in terrestrial impacts. What we are talking about with the reef is the interaction between terrestrial and marine. How might the calculator need to be made more contemporary for that is one of the things we are working through.

Senator SINGH: Okay. And what is the finalisation date for that?

Mr Thompson: I would have to take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

The requirements and approach for developing a tool and methodology to assist with the calculation of potential offsets payments to the Reef Trust is currently being investigated. It is expected that the calculation tool will be finalised and ready for use by proponents in the first half of 2016.