

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

Question No: 139
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.5
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division (EACD)
Topic: Sea Dumping in the GBRWHA
Hansard Page:
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. Please provide an update on the amount of dredge spoil dumping the GBRWHA in 2013, 2014 and so far in 2015, disaggregated by maintenance and capital dredging.
2. Please provide similar figures for dredging.

Answer:

1. See Table 1 below.

Table 1: Sea disposal of capital and maintenance dredged material in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*

	2013	2014	2015
Maintenance volume (cubic metres)	985,164	1,658,873	**
Capital volume (cubic metres)	730,058	0	**
Total (cubic metres)	1,715,222	1,658,873	

* The volumes reported are only for those activities regulated by the Commonwealth under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

** A number of dredging campaigns are scheduled by the ports for 2015 and are at various stages of completion. Actual offshore disposal volumes for 2015 are not required to be reported to the Department until January 2016.

2. See Table 2 below.

Table 2: Dredging in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*

	2013	2014	2015
Maintenance volume (cubic metres)	985,164	1,711,892	**
Capital volume (cubic metres)	9,804,041	0	**
Total (cubic metres)	10,789,205	1,711,892	

* The volumes reported are only for those activities regulated by the Commonwealth under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The volumes have been derived by adding offshore disposal volumes with onshore (including land reclamation) disposal volumes as a proxy for dredging that occurred.

** A number of dredging campaigns are scheduled by the ports for 2015 and are at various stages of completion. Actual offshore disposal volumes for 2015 are not required to be reported to the Department until January 2016. The Department will seek to collate onshore disposal volumes at the same time.