

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

Question No: 206
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Director of National Parks (DNP)
Topic: Commonwealth Marine Reserves – EPBC Act
Hansard Page:
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Referring to QON 380 from Supplementary Estimates, it says that prior to management plans being in place, Commonwealth Marine Reserves are managed in accordance with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and IUCN principles. In the absence of a management plan are the reserves afforded specific protections when they are being managed in accordance with the Act and principles?

Answer:

Until management plans come into effect, transitional arrangements apply to the new Commonwealth Marine Reserves. Under transitional arrangements, there are no changes on the water for users of new reserves. For marine reserves that existed prior to the establishment of the new reserves, previous management arrangements continue to apply even where those reserves have been incorporated into new reserves