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

Question No: 22

Hearing: Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 1.1

Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)

Topic: Water quality in the Great Barrier Reef

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Question Date: 25 May 2015

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Hence my question to get some specificity on how much is dedicated to water quality specifically.
Mr Thompson: I think that would be difficult for us to determine with any great accuracy, because a number of the activities identified there would cross into water quality. Some of the research activities and education activities would cross into water quality as well. There are others, for example, the Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, which does water quality report card modelling. That is clearly about water quality. But some of the others would have elements addressing water quality.
Senator WATERS: So, you are not too sure? Should I come back to that or can you take that on notice?
Mr Thompson: I can seek to get a more definitive breakdown, but I am managing expectations about how well we will be able to do that.

Answer:

From 2013-14 to 2017-18, the Australian Government, through the Department of the Environment, is providing more than $300 million in funding for the Reef. This includes committed or allocated funds of $101.7 million from relevant components of Reef Programme and Reef Trust investments (Phases 1 and 2) for projects designed to improve the quality of water entering the Reef.

Water quality will continue to be a key focus for future Reef Trust investment, with $112.5 million still to be allocated across the priorities over 4 years to 2018–19.

Funding of $32.0 million is also being delivered through the National Environmental Science Programme Tropical Water Quality Hub to 2020–21.