

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

Question No: 221

Hearing: Budget Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: Shen Neng 1 grounding

Hansard Page:

Question Date:

Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

Shen Neng grounding

1. Please provide the most accurate possible cost assessment for a cleanup of the TBT contamination on Douglas Shoal.
2. Please detail any trips to Douglas Shoal since 2011 taken by GBRMPA staff and their timing and purpose.
3. Have you done any long term impact assessment if the contamination is not cleaned up?

Answer:

1. The claim before the Federal Court is for damages in the sum of \$194 million dollars, representing the estimated cost of remediation of Douglas Shoal. This matter is before the Court and is not properly a matter for discussion at this time. The Commonwealth is obtaining expert advice on remediation and costs for the purpose of the Federal Court proceedings including the clean-up of Tributyltin which is just one task associated with the remediation of Douglas Shoal
2. To date the Commonwealth's expert in the Federal Court proceedings has undertaken three site visits to Douglas Shoal and is scheduled to undertake a further visit in July 2015. GBRMPA staff attended Douglas Shoal in October 2013 to assist with an assessment of damage to the site and outline remediation of damage by the expert. The expert also conducted a remediation trial for damage caused to the site in November 2014. The report on this trial has not yet been finalised.
3. The Commonwealth's expert has prepared three reports for the Commonwealth and is currently working on a further draft report. These reports analyse the damage to Douglas Shoal and the proposed remediation. The Commonwealth is obtaining evidence for the Federal Court proceedings about the impact to Douglas Shoal if the site is not remediated".

GBRMPA engaged an expert to conduct a remediation trial for damage caused to the site in November 2014. The report on this has not yet been finalised.

The report prepared by Dr Laurence McCook for GBRMPA and entitled Grounding of the Shen Neng 1 on Douglas Shoal, April 2010: Impact Assessment Report dated June 2011 is publicly available and provides a summary assessment of the impacts of the ship grounding on marine habitats of Douglas Shoal. This report is can be accessed at http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/17164/ShenNengGroundingImpactAssessmentReport.pdf