

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

Question No: 223

Hearing: Budget Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: National Ship Strike Strategy

Hansard Page:

Question Date:

Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. Please provide an update on GBRMPA's work on the NSSS since last estimates.
2. How many FTE are devoted to the NSSS?

Answer:

1. GBRMPA staff have not worked directly on development of the National Ship Strike Strategy document since last estimates. We expect that the Department of the Environment will seek input on a draft document in due course.

A GBRMPA staff member will attend a technical workshop in June 2015 run by CSIRO and focussed on ship strike risk to large whales in the Great Barrier Reef. The latest research findings and assessment of relative risk will be discussed, along with existing mitigation measures and priorities — with a view to helping inform aspects of the North East Shipping Management Plan and the National Ship Strike Strategy. Invitees to the workshop include cetacean researchers, an International Fund for Animal Welfare representative, and management agency representatives from GBRMPA, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Australian Defence, Maritime Safety Queensland, and the Department of the Environment.

2. GBRMPA does not have a staff member devoted to this task and allocates staff time as required. Allocation to this work for the 2014/15 financial year has been limited, estimated to be less than an FTE.