

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

Question No: 44
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Reef Trust – initiatives Trust Funds are being used for

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Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Can you tell me what initiatives, including those in the Turtle and Dugong Plan, Trust Funds are being used for?

Answer:

Seven projects are being delivered under the first phase of Reef Trust investment, with up to \$14.5 million in funding over 2014–15 to 2017–18. This includes:

- \$5.3 million for the Dugong and Turtle Protection Plan, to enhance the protection of marine turtles and dugongs. This includes:
 - the Specialised Indigenous Ranger Programme (\$2.0 million)
 - an investigation into environmental crime by the Australian Crime Commission (\$2.0 million)
 - the coordination of marine debris clean-up by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (\$0.7 million)
 - investment in the Cairns and Fitzroy Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre (\$0.3 million through phase one, and an additional contribution of \$0.3 million).
- \$2.0 million for crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) control, to manage COTS predation on high value tourism reefs and maintain coral cover.
- \$1.7 million has been contracted for the delivery of successful tenders through a competitive tender for nutrient reduction in the Wet Tropics region cane industry.
- \$3.0 million for the grazing land sediment reduction project in the Burdekin and Fitzroy regions.

The second phase of Reef Trust investments will deliver up to \$15.4 million from 2015–16 to 2017–18. This includes:

- \$5.4 million to address gully erosion in priority grazing landscapes across the Reef.
- \$3.0 million to run a competitive tender in the Burdekin region to target nitrogen discharge from cane farming, building on the Wet Tropics tender run in the first phase of Reef Trust investment.
- \$7.0 million for tactical control of COTS to protect high value tourist reefs, informed by the latest research and monitoring, building on existing COTS control programmes.

Further details of Reef Trust phase I and II investments can be found on the Department of the Environment website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/reef-trust>.