

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 100  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Reef Trust - Abbot Point  
**Hansard Page:** 95  
**Question Date:** 22 May 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

Senator URQUHART: The condition 37 states that construction must not commence until the marine offsets strategy has been approved by the minister in writing. The approved marine offsets strategy must be implemented. So has the minister approved this plan and the turtle plan?

Ms Collins: No. That plan has not been prepared and it has not been approved by the minister. Because the program has now translated to the Reef Trust that is no longer necessary under this individual approval, but it is taken over by the requirements of the Reef Trust itself.

Senator URQUHART: The question of whether the Reef Trust makes the decision and then the department advises the minister—am I clear on that?

Mr Cahill: I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Under the original conditions of approval, Adani was required to prepare a Turtle Plan and a Marine Plan which would identify the projects to be implemented by Adani as marine offsets. These plans are no longer required following the variation to conditions approved by the Minister's delegate on 10 May 2017.

The offsets for this project will now be developed and approved under Reef Trust arrangements. The offset projects delivered by the Reef Trust for the Adani coal export terminal, as for any other project, will be targeted to ensure the activities address the relevant potential impacts. This includes offsets directly assisting turtles as well as offsets, such as improved water quality, that benefit the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area more generally.

Reef Trust projects are designed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and receive expert scientific advice from the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel. The projects are then approved by the Minister for the Environment and Energy and delivered by Reef Trust.