

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 130
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Inpex – Liman Bight Conservation Reserve
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 9 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

Is there a final site for the marine reserves?

When do you expect them to be acquired and finalised?

In Inpex's Coastal Offset Strategy published on their website, there is a very detailed timeline for developing this marine reserve. The final sites were to be announced in January 2014, and the management plans finalised in October 2014. We're now about three years behind. Why has the Department allowed this major company to default on their obligations for so long?

Answer:

Condition 11 of the approval for the INPEX Ichthys project requires the person taking the action to submit a Coastal Offset Strategy for the protection of listed threatened and migratory species impacted by the Ichthys project in Darwin Harbour. That Strategy was approved by the Minister's delegate in April 2012.

The approved Coastal Offset Strategy outlines programs to be funded by INPEX as offsets for impacts to matters of national environmental significance associated with the Ichthys project.

One program of the approved Coastal Offsets Strategy, Protection of Marine and Terrestrial Habitat, includes extensive stakeholder engagement, including with the Northern Territory Government and traditional owners. As a consequence of those consultations, INPEX is yet to identify a final site for the marine reserve. INPEX is continuing these consultations in order to inform its identification of a final site for the marine reserve.

The Department will continue to ensure that the conditions of approval are managed appropriately, including INPEX obligations under the Coastal Offset Strategy.