

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

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

**Question No:** 141  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 2  
**Program:** Domestic Emissions Reduction Division (DERD)  
**Topic:** Budget for tidal inundation and coastal erosion in the Torres Strait  
**Hansard Page:** 93  
**Question Date:** 23 May 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters asked:**

Senator WATERS: What is the financial commitment from within the 2017-18 budget for tidal inundation and coastal erosion mitigation in the Torres Strait, and under what budget line items can I find that?

Ms Evans: I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

In February 2014, the Australian Government committed \$14.2 million for coastal protection works in Torres Strait communities, as part of a joint \$26.2 million commitment with the Queensland Government. Australian Government funding was through the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

All Australian Government funding for the coastal protection works has been transferred to the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure Trust. Payments are made from the Trust to the Torres Strait Island Regional Council as work is completed.

Some Torres Strait communities are currently involved in a project funded through the Australian Government's National Environment Science Program. Traditional owners are working with researchers to explore the impact of climate change on marine ecosystems, fisheries and livelihoods in the Torres Strait. This will provide an opportunity to raise awareness with key stakeholders, review the current state of local and scientific knowledge, and identify a strategic way forward for addressing priority information gaps and needs.