

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

Question No: 103
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: GBR MARINE PARK - DREDGING COMMITMENTS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

The Minister has made a commitment that there will be no offshore dumping in the GBR Marine Park from capital dredging for future projects. What is the Department's best understanding of the scope of this commitment? In particular:

- a. Does it apply to projects which have been applied for at a Federal level but not yet approved?
- b. Does it apply to projects which have entered the State level assessment process but not the Federal process?
- c. Please provide the Department's best understanding of the term "future projects".

Answer:

On 12 November 2014, at the World Parks Congress, the Minister announced the intention to develop a legislated ban on disposal of capital dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The legislative instrument is now being prepared. When the draft instrument is completed it will include transitional arrangements to address questions of this nature. The instrument, including transitional arrangements, will not be finalised until the completion of consultation processes.

The draft legislative instrument will undergo normal consultation as determined by the Office of Best Practice Regulation.