

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

Question No: 106
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: GREAT BARRIER REEF STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT
Hansard Page: 89
Question Date: 20 October 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Has the department briefed the minister or the minister's office on this issue this year?

Mr Knudson: On the issue of the strategic assessments?

Senator WATERS: Yes. On the issue of accrediting a class of actions under a strategic assessment.

Dr Dripps: We would have to take that on notice but we have had extensive discussions with the minister about the Queensland government's aspiration to pursue streamlining through an approvals bilateral agreement.

Answer:

Yes, the Department has briefed the Minister on the issue of approving a class of actions in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Program Report, 2014*.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has indicated an intention to seek an approval for classes of actions from the Minister. Before seeking such an approval, the Authority must undertake the precursor actions it has committed to in the Program Report.

Queensland has not indicated an intention to seek an approval for a class of actions under the strategic assessment.