

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

Question No: 117
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS PROTECTING THE GREAT BARRIER REEF
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

Did the Department or the Minister or the Minister's office ask the consultants to re-write any sections of a draft report? Did they suggest any amendments?

- a. Was there any correspondence between the consultants and the Department between when the review was received and when it was published? Please provide the dates, and the matters raised.
- b. What were those amendments, if any?
- c. Were any amendments adopted as a result of such suggestions?

Answer:

Neither the Minister nor the Minister's office made any requests in regard to the content of the draft report. The Department did not request any content changes to the draft report which would prejudice the independence of the Review. The Department suggested amendments to correct facts and typographical errors in the draft report.

- a. The final version of the Independent Review Report was received by the Department on 11 September 2014. Following its receipt the Department engaged in the following correspondence:
 - The Department received the final weekly progress report from the consultants – 12 September 2014.
 - The Department received the final invoice from the consultants – 15 September 2014.
 - The Department noted its appreciation to the consultants for, amongst other matters, the quality and independence of the Review – 18 September 2014.
- b. No amendments to the Independent Review were requested by the Department following receipt of the final report.
- c. Not applicable