

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

**Question No:** 151  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 3  
**Programme:** Australian Antarctic Division  
**Topic:** 20 YEAR AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC REVIEW  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

What consultation has occurred following the release of the Strategic Vision: who has been consulted; when were they consulted; where were they consulted; and what was the purpose of the consultation?

**Answer:**

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, released the 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan report on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in Hobart, together with the Government's Senate Leader, Senator Eric Abetz. The main way of disseminating the report has been to make it available online at <http://20yearplan.antarctica.gov.au/final-report>. Making the report publicly available provides the opportunity to take account of any further comments from interested stakeholders.

Since the release of the report the Government has initiated an interdepartmental process to consider the recommendations and develop a response. An interdepartmental meeting was convened by the Department of the Environment on 26 September 2014 attended by 24 agencies, and four separate focus groups have been established to address clusters of recommendations relating to: policy and diplomatic issues, science, Tasmania, and capability development.