

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

Question No: 153
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 3
Programme: Australian Antarctic Division
Topic: ANTARCTIC TREATY
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

The Minister has verbally "re-committed" to the "Antarctic Treaty". Can you please provide details on which "Antarctic Treaty" this comment may relate to and the arrangements for that "re-commitment"? What does the re-commitment involve - re-signing a treaty, a funding arrangement, a renewed timeframe, etc?

Answer:

In releasing the 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan on 10 October 2014, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment, reiterated the Government's commitment to the Antarctic Treaty System. This refers to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty and associated international agreements that collectively provide for the governance and management of the Antarctic region. Australia is one of 12 original parties to the Antarctic Treaty and is active and influential within the Antarctic Treaty System. The 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan includes recommendations aimed at ensuring that Australia remains a key player in the Antarctic Treaty system. The Government is considering the report in detail before providing a formal response in coming months.