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

**Question No**: 191

**Hearing**: Supplementary Budget Estimates

**Outcome**: Agency

**Programme**: Bureau of Meteorology

**Topic**: eReefs project

**Hansard Page**: N/A

**Question Date**: 29 October 2014

**Question Type**: Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

In response to Sen Waters' question in the recent estimates hearings, a BOM official stated that the eReefs project called the Marine Water Quality Dashboard would not be operational for "several years".

Please confirm that that means that the deliverable on page 23 of the Reef WQ Protection Plan 2013 characterised as "Help determine the pollutant load reductions required to meet marine water quality guidelines, by completing a receiving water model as part of the eReefs project" which was due for completion in June 2015 will be late?

**Answer:**

In response to Senator Waters' question in the recent estimates hearings, the Director of Meteorology, Dr Rob Vertessy, said that the Marine Water Quality Dashboard is now operational and accessible from the Bureau's website. It was made publicly available in March 2014. The Marine Water Quality Dashboard is not a receiving water model.

The deliverable in the form of a water receiving model as referred on page 23 of the Reef WQ Protection Plan 2013 has been already delivered by CSIRO and has been used, for example for water quality risk assessment for the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013. CSIRO is continuing to work on that model to convert it to a water quality receiving model which will include bio-geo-chemistry.

Dr Vertessy went on to discuss a hydrodynamic model which the Bureau is working on and which is due for completion in June 2016. This hydrodynamic model is a key component of an integrated receiving water quality model, which, under the 2011 eReefs Collaboration Agreement, has an agreed delivery date of June 2016. At this stage, the model is expected to be delivered on time.