

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

**Question No:** 393  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
**Topic:** DRAFT REEF 2050 PLAN – WATER QUALITY  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

Some estimates which I have seen state that cuts of up to 80% in Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen are needed - is that consistent with your estimates if GBRMPA has made any estimates?

**Answer:**

There are a range of excess nutrients entering the Great Barrier Reef that are associated with some present land management practices. Dissolved Inorganic Nutrients (DIN) is closely associated with the application of fertilizers in intensive agriculture areas. The estimate of 80% reduction is for all these nutrient sources and is based on our current knowledge of the different sources of nutrients. The largest Reef-wide loads of nutrients are associated with broadscale agricultural land management practices. These sources include excess fertilizers used in intensive agriculture and particulate nutrients carried in runoff of excess sediments, generally exacerbated by poor grazing land management practices. However, excess nutrients are also released from urban and industrial areas (eg sewage treatment plants) and regulations introduced in the last decade are working to reduce these contributions to the loads entering the Great Barrier Reef. This is important at local and regional scales and all these actions work to reduce the overall loads of pollutants entering the Great Barrier Reef.