

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

Question No: 398
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: Dredging and dumping world's best practice
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

Do the permit conditions on all relevant approvals under GBRMP Act or Sea Dumping legislation insist that the proponent must use 'world's best practice' when dredging and dumping?

- a. Please provide a list of which projects are conducted using world's best practice and which are not.

Answer:

'World's best practice' is a constantly evolving science and what may be world's best practice in one case may not be world's best practice in another case. It is for this reason that the term 'world's best practice' is not used in permit conditions as it would not be enforceable.

Permit conditions under the GBRMP Act and Sea Dumping Act are site and activity specific and can include spatial and temporal restrictions, limitations on the type of equipment used and a requirement for specific monitoring before, during and after the dredging and dumping activity. These restrictions are considered to be the best way of managing any negative impacts from dredging and disposal.