

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

**Question No:** 44  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division  
**Topic:** DOLPHIN HUNT AT TAIJI  
**Hansard Page:** 44  
**Question Date:** 20 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Whish-Wilson asked:**

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** I would like to ask some questions on whaling. I would like to thank the department for the responses to my last questions on notice, as mentioned by Senator Birmingham. The two questions I asked on notice were as follows. First, whether we had invited the Japanese to participate in our Southern Ocean non-lethal whaling program? Your response was that that invitation would be done through the IWC, at the recent meeting. I also asked whether Minister Hunt had made any representations to the Japanese government relating to the dolphin hunt and slaughter at Taiji. You said in questions on notice that you strongly advocate for the protection of cetaceans and you will raise the issue of Taiji at the IWC meeting. I want to check whether you raised the issues at the IWC meeting and what the responses were from the Japanese.

**Mr Thompson:** In relation to the first question I am aware that Minister Hunt did invite the Japanese formally to be part of the Southern Ocean research program. So I know that that did occur. In relation to the second question, unfortunately none of the three people at the table were at that meeting in Slovenia recently, but we had very fulsome reports back from the meeting. In relation to the second question, I will throw to Ms Schweizer.

**Ms Schweizer:** The reporting back—and I have confirmed this with one of the officers who was there—Minister Hunt himself did not raise the Taiji dolphin hunts in the short meeting he had with Commissioner Morishita. They did talk about Southern Ocean research whaling. I have not been able to ascertain whether any of the other officers would have raised it but it would seem to be unlikely.

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** And if that was the case would you be able to let me know on notice?

**Answer:**

The Australian delegation to the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Whaling Commission did not raise the Taiji dolphin drive hunts during their discussions with Japan at the recent Commission meeting.