

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

Question No: 83
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: AQUIS GREAT BARRIER REEF RESORT
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

In relation to the Aquis Great Barrier Reef Resort in Yorkey's Knob can the department confirm;

- a. The project is being planned to cover 340 hectares.
- b. Phase 1 starting in 2016 will include 3000 rooms with a further 7,500 rooms on completion.
- c. Phase 1 will include about 3750 construction jobs with employment for 20,000 resort employees on completion.
- d. The site includes 53 hectares of natural vegetation but no mangroves will be removed.
- e. Construction will result in a reduction of pollutant run off of 140 tons per year.

Answer:

The figures you have listed are generally in accordance with the publically available Environmental Impact Statement for the Aquis Resort and Casino at the Great Barrier Reef project.

The Environmental Impact Statement states that:

- the Aquis project will be developed over a 340.63 ha site.
- the preliminary construction schedule has a construction period commencing in 2015
- Stage 1 (2014-2018) will include 4000 hotel rooms/suites. Stage 2 includes 3 500 hotel rooms (7 500 in total)
- Stage 1 will include 3 750 construction jobs. At completion the Aquis Resort will provide employment for up to 20 000 operational staff.
- the Environmental Management and Conservation Precinct (113 ha) involves the protection and preservation of 53 ha of native vegetation and ecological restoration works.
- 22.1 ha of mangroves occur on site. Of this, 0.4 ha will be cleared and there will be restoration of 29.8 ha of mangroves.
- when comparing the developed site with treatment and the undeveloped cane farm, the development will reduce the export of all pollutants by 133 tonnes per annum (45%).