

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

Question No: 155
Hearing: Supplementary Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: Reef Plan - Maintenance dredging framework
Hansard Page: 38
Question Date: 19 October 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: In relation to the maintenance dredging framework referenced in the reef plan, could you give me an update on how much work has been done on that so far? How many folk are working on it? What sort of time frame are you working to?

Mr Elliot: That is being led by one of the Queensland agencies who have engaged with us in that process. At the moment there have not been any preliminary documents created for us to review, but we certainly have been engaged and we will certainly be involved in the development of the framework.

Senator WATERS: Just so that I understand: your anticipated role in that process is to review documents. What are you expecting to do, in relation to that framework?

Mr Elliot: We are expecting to provide advice into the process. I believe that many of the documents themselves are being developed by consultants. So we will provide advice into the development of those documents and we will provide comment on those documents, as we normally would for the development of policies or frameworks that are being led by either another Commonwealth agency or a state agency.

Senator WATERS: Do you know what time frame that process is working to?

Mr Elliot: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Queensland Government has the lead for developing a dredging management strategy as detailed in the Reef 2050 Plan. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has been consulted and will provide advice into the development of the strategy as it normally would for the development of policies or strategies that are being led by either another Commonwealth agency or a state agency. The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, who have the lead, has engaged consultants to develop the strategy. A draft report and strategy is due in January 2016 with a final report and strategy in February 2016. It is then intended that the strategy will be implemented by May 2016.