

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

Question No: 156
Hearing: Supplementary Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: Maintenance dredging projections
Hansard Page: 38
Question Date: 19 October 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: My last question in this line of questioning is: do the projections for maintenance dredging show the amounts increasing or decreasing over the next, say, five years?

Mr Elliot: The projections I have seen have them fairly consistent with what they have been for the last decade or so. They have been reasonably consistent. They do go up and down from year to year, of course, because extreme weather has an impact on maintenance-dredging volume.

Senator WATERS: Could you take on notice to provide me with as much detail of the projections as you can?

Mr Elliot: Yes.

Answer:

The 2015 *Synthesis of current knowledge of the biophysical impacts of dredging and disposal on the Great Barrier Reef* provides projected volumes of maintenance dredge material disposed into the World Heritage Area to 2020. The table below is an excerpt from Table B-6 in Appendix B of that report (page 136) with the following changes:

1. The volumes associated with Cairns Port are the same as projections for the 2014 calendar year since the anticipated capital dredging indicated in 2015 and 2016 has not occurred and is not likely to occur in that timeframe (as indicated in Table B-6).
2. The projected volumes associated with Gladstone Port have increased as a result of capital dredging already conducted associated with the Western Basin project. The figures from Table B-6 have been increased by 85,000 a year to cater for this additional anticipated disposal amount
3. The actual figures are not available until reported by Ports under their various permits and are determined by a number of factors including weather events.

Location	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Port Douglas	0	0	0	0	0
Cairns Port	332,209	332,209	332,209	332,209	332,209
Townsville Port	364,486	364,486	364,486	364,486	364,486
Port of Abbot Point	0	0	0	0	0
Port of Hay Point (Dudgeon Pt)	0	0	208,000	0	0
Mackay Port	70,000	0	0	0	0
Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour	30,000	0	0	30,000	0
Gladstone Port	259,531	259,531	259,531	259,531	259,531
	1,056,226	956,226	1,164,226	986,226	956,226