

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

Question No: 163
Hearing: Supplementary Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: Water Law Changes
Hansard Page: 45
Question Date: 19 October 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: You say you are much more comfortable, and yet they are retaining the statutory right to water for mining companies who now will not need to seek a water licence. How are you comfortable with that?

Mr Elliot: Our comfort comes to a large degree from the modelling that has now been conducted, which identifies the risks associated with the take of that water and the requirements for assessments of the impact of that water.

Senator WATERS: But there will not be an assessment required. That is the point.

Mr Elliot: There will not be a requirement for an assessment to inform the take of the water.

Senator WATERS: Indeed.

Mr Elliot: But I believe there is now an assessment requirement of the impacts that can then help guide the volumes involved. I would have to take it on notice to give you more detail.

Answer:

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority supports the harmonisation of legislative requirements for the take of associated and non-associated water for the resources industries based on the inclusion of a framework to consider and manage cumulative impacts in the proposed amendment.