

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

**Question No:** 37  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Reef Trust - offsets calculator  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 21 October 2015  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

1. Considering it is so focused on terrestrial impacts at the moment, does the offsets calculator need to be modified?

**Answer:**

1. The Offset Assessment Guide which accompanies the *EPBC Act environmental offsets policy*, applies where a proposed action will have a residual significant impact on a threatened species or ecological community. It is not applicable for impacts related to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Through the National Environmental Science Programme, a tool and methodology to assist with the calculation of financial offset requirements for impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is being developed. The calculator will focus specifically on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and is intended to calculate the financial payment required to enable the Reef Trust to undertake activities to offset any significant residual impacts on behalf on an approval holder.