

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 104
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Japanese Whaling in the Southern Ocean – Monitoring and Surveillance
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:

1. What forms of monitoring, observation or surveillance will the Australian Government be undertaking for Japanese Whaling in the Southern Ocean over the coming summer?
2. If not, how will the Australian Government maintain legal options without access to primary evidence of wrongdoing by the Japanese whalers?
3. Will the Environment Department be accessing Border Force (Customs) or Defence assets such as the ice-rated Ocean Shield or Ocean Protector, or AP-3C Orion or P-8A Poseidons for any activities in the Southern Ocean this upcoming summer?
4. What budget allocations have the Government made from the Environment Department in regard to the prevention of Japanese whaling in the Southern Ocean?

Answer:

1. The Government remains resolutely opposed to whaling in the Southern Ocean and is currently considering its response to a potential 2016-17 Southern Ocean whaling season.
2. As above.
3. As above.
4. Nil in 2016-17 or over the forward estimates (note this does not include support for ongoing general work on whaling-related matters).

While there is no specific allocation of funds for the prevention of Japanese whaling in the Southern Ocean, the portfolio is investing in a range of activities to bring about a permanent end to this whaling including:

- a) Supporting non-lethal research through the International Whaling Commission's Southern Ocean Research Partnership. The Partnership has repeatedly demonstrated that all information necessary for the conservation and management of whales can be obtained through non-lethal methods. Australia provided \$1.5 million to support further non-lethal research through the Partnership in June 2016.
- b) Continuing to provide strong pro-conservation leadership within the Commission including by ensuring greater level of review and scrutiny of Japan's so-called 'scientific' whaling program by the Commission.