

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 14
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Queensland Tree Clearing
Hansard Page: 26-27
Question Date: 21 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Chisholm, Anthony asked:

Senator CHISHOLM: I move on to the Great Barrier Reef. On Monday, Senator Waters asked a question of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority about a teleconference that was held between some officials and the World Heritage Committee. Are you aware of that?

Dr de Brouwer: Yes, but that is not really under this outcome.

Senator CHISHOLM: I am moving on to the Great Barrier Reef. Are you aware of that?

Dr de Brouwer: It was raised at estimates and I am aware of that conversation.

Senator CHISHOLM: In terms of this area, is the department aware of what was raised in that conversation with the committee with regard to tree-clearing laws in Queensland?

Dr de Brouwer: I have to take that question on notice. The officers who would normally deal with the reef would have that communication with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. They are not here. I will have to pursue that with them and ask them.

Senator CHISHOLM: In terms of the land sector initiatives around tree clearing, that would fall to this department?

Dr de Brouwer: It is the same department. This is about the specific methods around land clearing and adaptation in general. Reef-specific and how that is raised with the World Heritage Committee, that would really be done with the heritage people, in outcome 1.4. I will follow it up.

Answer:

Officials from the Department, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government attended the teleconference call with the World Heritage Committee advisors in October 2016.

The focus of the discussion was on progress implementing the Reef 2050 Plan, including among several other actions, Queensland Government's action under that Plan (EHA 20) relating to strengthening the Queensland vegetation management legislation.