

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

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 03  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Maintenance Dredging Framework  
**Hansard Page:** 38  
**Question Date:** 17 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters, Larissa asked:**

Senator WATERS: We have spoken previously about a maintenance dredging framework. In fact it was about a year ago when you said that the framework was coming and was going to be released in February this year. It is now October and we have not seen it. Can you explain the cause of the delay and when we are going to see that maintenance dredging framework?

Mr Elliot: The lead on developing that framework was the Queensland government. We were involved in the workshops that were being conducted around that. I believe the final draft of the framework is either complete or near complete and should be in the public domain in the not too distant future.

Senator WATERS: Do you have any understanding of why there is a delay? The Reef Plan promised it would be done in February. It is now almost November.

Mr Elliot: Having been involved in it but not being the leader, I could not really say why it has not yet been finalised. I can say, though, that they went through quite a robust process in the development of the framework.

Senator WATERS: Did they note that failure and that missed time frame in the annual report of the Reef Plan?

Mr Elliot: I would not be able to answer that question.

Senator WATERS: You did not have any input into the annual report under 'Reef Plan'?

Dr Reichelt: Yes we did, but I am not clear on that specific point about that milestone not being met.

Senator WATERS: There are certainly a lot of milestones that have not been met, and yet the document says that everything is on track. Perhaps the department could reflect on that.

Ms Parry: Can we come back to you in our session following this with a specific update on that, noting that that is an action being led by the Queensland government.

Senator WATERS: But it is still in the reef plan that the annual report—

Ms Parry: Yes, and I will get back to you on the status of that.

**Answer:**

The December 2015 Reef 2050 Plan Implementation Strategy stated that the maintenance dredging strategy would be finalised by the end of 2016.

A maintenance dredging strategy is under development in accordance with the Reef 2050 Plan action item WQA16. The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is the lead responsible agency.