

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

Question No: 346
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Director of National Parks (DNP)
Topic: Marine National Parks
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 01 November 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Marine national parks are an established way to protect marine ecosystems, why would the committee recommend making them smaller?

Answer:

The Chairs of the Independent Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review were tasked with advising the Minister on science and options for zoning. The Chairs advised that the review recommendations from the independent review reflect the outcomes from consultation with stakeholders and the best available science. The Expert Scientific Panel detailed that zoning plays a key role in the representative system approach to marine protected areas and that both Marine National Park and Habitat Protection zones are valuable in protecting habitat, biological diversity and associated ecosystem services and structures.

The review is informing the current process led by the Director of National Parks to establish management plans for the marine reserves. This will be considered by Government in the coming months.