

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 52
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Government Response to Toxic Threat Report
Hansard Page: 44
Question Date: 17 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Moore, Claire asked:

Senator MOORE: I have a question on the report that this committee did on the issue of the toxic threat of plastics in our waterways. The inquiry went over a long time, and I have just checked: the committee's report came down in April this year. I know that it is a difficult thing, but I am just wondering, Minister, can you give us any idea about a government response to that report?

Dr Reichelt: Was that a report from the Great Barrier Reef?

Senator MOORE: No, it is a report from this committee, and I was just checking—

Unidentified speaker: We took a lot of evidence from scientists about the Great Barrier Reef.

Senator MOORE: We had a lot from the Great Barrier Reef. That was the one I got to.

Minister, is there any possibility of a response as to when the government response will come down?

Senator Birmingham: Sorry, I missed the last part there.

Senator MOORE: When will a response come down to the particular report? It was called Toxic tide: the threat of marine plastic pollution in Australia. It was a wide report. But I am just raising it with the minister—

CHAIR: Would that be a question better asked of—

Dr Reichelt: It is not for the marine park authority.

Senator MOORE: No, it is for the minister.

CHAIR: We have got management of hazardous wastes, substances and pollutants, or environment regulation.

Senator MOORE: It goes across the board.

Senator Birmingham: I am not sure I have an update on that specific inquiry response.

Senator MOORE: If you can find out, that would be fine. I just wanted to put it on record.

Answer:

The Australian Government response to *Toxic tide: the threat of marine plastic pollution in Australia* is currently being finalised and is expected to be released early in 2017.