

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

**Question No:** 10  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division  
**Topic:** Reef Rescue Programme  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 4 March 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

The 2014 State Party Report states Australia has committed more than \$140 million through the second phase (2013–14 to 2017–18) of Reef Rescue.

1. What is the federal Government's total commitment to the second phase of Reef Rescue?
2. Has funding been cut to the Reef Rescue Program since September 2013?

**Answer:**

When the second phase of Reef Rescue was announced in 2012, the then Government committed \$200 million to the new programme. Currently \$142.3 million of Reef Rescue funding has been announced with \$137.4 million committed in contracts over the five year period 2013-14 to 2017-18. Funding for Reef Rescue was adjusted by approximately \$16.5 million when the Biodiversity Fund was terminated and all uncommitted funds returned to budget.

Outside those funds announced by the government to be returned to the budget as a result of the termination of the Biodiversity Fund, there has been no announced reduction to existing reef commitments.

The Government's suite of investments over the next four years are being considered through the budget process, including the new Reef Trust (a \$40 million election commitment for the new Reef Trust with the pooling of offset funds from significant environment approvals supplementing the Commonwealth contribution).