

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

Question No: 205
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: Outlook Report 2014
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: What sort of consultation are you doing on that?

Dr Reichelt: The outlook report consultation has been done through a round of meetings with some hundreds of people in major town centres, with our 12 local management advisory committees. This was work done also for the strategic assessment, so they have run together and we have had quite extensive consultation. We have had a management effectiveness review done, independently of us, and that work is underway now.

I would have to take on notice the precise plans for the consultation once this draft is substantially done, but it will happen more quickly than previously given the amount of community work we have already done. The strategic assessment will be tremendously informative, and we are already getting a lot of feedback on it as well.

Senator URQUHART: If you could provide the information about the consultation on notice, that would be fine

Answer:

There is no legislative requirement for a public consultation process in relation to development of the Outlook Report. Nevertheless, the development of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 (the Outlook Report) has involved a range of consultation approaches:

- Drawing on findings from the extensive community consultation processes run in association with the Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment. These processes included engagement with Traditional Owners, expertise-based Reef Advisory Committees, Local Marine Advisory Committees and other stakeholders. A subsequent formal public consultation period for the draft Strategic Assessment report ran from 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014.
- Seeking expert opinion from the Great Barrier Reef scientific community through a scientific consensus workshop.
- Targeted consultation with the agency's local marine advisory committees plus local councils and schools participating in the Reef Guardians programme.
- Direct consultation with state and federal government officials during the independent review of existing measures to protect and manage the ecosystem within the Great Barrier Reef.