

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

Question No: 208
Hearing: Additional Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: Abbot Point dredging decision
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 7 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. All dredging under this approval is to be overseen by an independent dredge technical panel. Under condition 23, the proponent must establish and fund the panel. What does independent mean in this context?
2. Will the department exercise any measure of oversight regarding the selection of the panel?

Answer:

1. Condition 23 of the EPBC 2011/6213 approval is from the Department of the Environment and deals with the independent dredging technical advice panel. Independence is a desired state where the panel members provide scientific and technical information without bias and with no conflict of interest with the proponent, government or other stakeholder.
2. The Department of the Environment and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will jointly approve the membership of the Dredge Technical Panel.