

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

**Question No:** 213  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
**Topic:** GBR Strategic Assessment submissions - Marine Assessments  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 07 March 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

I refer you to the GBR Strategic Assessment undertaken the Authority.

1. How many submissions were received? How many substantive submissions were received?
2. GBRMPA will be aware the Senate has called for the Govt to publish all submissions – is this going to happen? When can we expect this?
3. The Strategic Assessment will essentially determine the future of how our Great Barrier Reef is managed. Why should the community have any confidence in this process if we cannot even see the submissions made to decision makers by all experts, community members and industry representatives?
4. Does GBRMPA believe it is in the public interest to release in full all submissions made to the Strategic Assessment? If not, please provide a detailed response.

**Answer:**

1. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) received a total number of 6616 submissions. Of these, 6008 were petition-style campaign submissions, 376 were survey submissions and 232 submissions were received by email or post. Final cross checking of submissions is underway as part of the analysis of submissions. Information on the number of submissions received will be published in the Authority's supplementary report which addresses and responds to public comments.
2. Yes, the Department of the Environment is taking the lead on this issue.
3. See answer above.
4. Yes, subject to the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Clth) and the commitment made by the Australian and Queensland governments that the names and contact details of those who provided submissions would not be published without their consent.