

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

Question No: 25
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: Listing of Cape York
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Question Date: 24 February 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Pratt asked:

Senator PRATT: Has the minister met with traditional owners to discuss the listing since the election? If so, which groups and when?

Ms Rankin: I would have to take on notice the specific details. I know he has had some conversations about the issue while he has been talking to Indigenous groups on the cape on a range of other matters, including the dugong and turtle election commitment. This issue has come up, but I am not sure if he has had specific consultations on it.

Senator PRATT: The point is that we all know that the listing needs to be progressed with that work having been done by the traditional owners. I want to make sure that the government is not standing behind a lack of progress with them in order to oppose the listing in some way. So I am keen to see how that engagement and consultation to resolve those issues is being progressed.

Senator Birmingham: We will happily take that on notice and advise in terms of the consultation that has occurred.

Answer:

The Minister held discussions on potential world heritage listing of Cape York with Chair of the Minister's Indigenous Advisory Committee, Ms Melissa George, as well as the Cape York Turtle and Dugong Taskforce when he visited Cairns in January 2014.