

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

Question No: 29
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: World Heritage Committee - representations
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 07 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

In relation to representations made by the Australian Government relating to the June 2014 meeting of the World Heritage Committee (WHC),

1. Will the Minister be participating in the delegation to the meeting in June?
2. Will any Ministerial staff be participating in the delegation to the meeting in June?
3. Can a breakdown be provided of how many staff attending are anticipated to be involved in the June meeting delegation, including,
 - a) technical staff,
 - b) other staff?
4. Which Government official will lead the delegation in June? If this is not settled, which APS level would they hold?
5. Will any industry, community, scientific or other non-Government representatives form part of the Australian Government delegation in June? If yes, please provide details.
6. Have any Government Ministers been involved in making representations to the WHC Secretariat and/ or representatives of WHC members in the past six months? Please provide details.

Answer:

1. No
2. No
- 3 to 5. The composition of the delegation has not yet been settled so it is not possible to provide any specific details. The Australian delegation to the World Heritage Committee meetings in 2012 and 2013 was led by Dr Kimberley Dripps, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Environment.
6. In the past six months, the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP has written to the World Heritage Committee as Australia's State Party representative to:
 - a) transmit Australia's 2014 State Party Report in relation to the Great Barrier Reef;
 - b) advise the Australian Government's position in relation to potential world heritage nominations of Cape York Peninsula and Royal National Park; and
 - c) notify the Australian Government's intention to seek a minor boundary modification to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and subsequently transmit the request for modification.

The Department is not aware of any other Australian Government Minister making representations to the World Heritage Committee Secretariat and/ or World Heritage Committee members in the past six months.