

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Sub Program 1.2.4**

**Question No. 69**

**Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 19 October 2009:**

I enquired specifically whether the status of Elizabeth and Middleton Islands were 'important for locating the boundary between the EEZ and the ECS'. The reply indicated that 'Middleton Island was used as a base point in the delimitation with France in relation to New Caledonia'. I seek a reply to the question I asked

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The boundary between the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the extended continental shelf in any maritime area is the outer limit of the EEZ located 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline. Base points on Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs are necessary to establishing the proclaimed outer limit of the EEZ.