

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

Question No: 257
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: Townsville Air Force Base
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 24 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

Can you please provide an update on GBRMPA's engagement about the speculation about the Townsville Air Force base contamination?

Answer:

The Senate inquiry report into firefighting foam contamination - RAAF Base Williamtown, released February 2016 included a submission from Colin Trinder, a former director of environmental impact management, Australian Defence Force in regards to the likelihood that *"toxic firefighting foam has run off from Townsville Air Force base and onto the Great Barrier Reef"*.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority through discussions with the Department of Defence is not aware of any specific releases of firefighting foam into the Great Barrier Reef associated with the operation of the Townsville Air Force Base.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has a strong collaborative relationship with the Department of Defence to ensure that all Defence activities within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are well planned, well resourced and are of a high environmental standard.