

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

Question No: 264
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Topic: ABBOT POINT PERMIT ASSESSMENT
Hansard Page: 110
Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: I want to move on now to Abbot Point. Where is the final permit assessment for the dredging and dumping approval and why is that not public? We have got the permit, obviously, but not the permit assessment document.

Mr Elliot: We do not normally make the permit assessment document publicly available. We do provide and have provided the statement of reasons for both of the permit decisions, and they can be found on our website.

Senator WATERS: Is that a document that you can make available through this estimates process—the permit assessment?

Mr Elliot: That would be subject to a freedom-of-information request, and that would be the normal process by which we would release the document.

Senator WATERS: So I cannot just ask for it tonight? I have to put in a freedom-of-information request?

Mr Elliot: What I do not know is whether it has actually already been provided with documents that have been provided to the Senate.

Senator WATERS: I know I have not seen it, and I have had quite an interest in FOI documents so far.

Dr Reichelt: Can I just correct my colleague? I think you can ask for it, certainly.

Senator WATERS: Okay. Consider that so asked for. Thank you.

Dr Reichelt: We will take that one on notice.

Answer:

The requested documents have previously been released pursuant to a Senate Notice of Motion. Courtesy copies of the documents released pursuant to the senate motion are attached.

Doc No 16 — Delegates Notes — Abbot Point Capital Dredging Project Assessment – Sea Dumping Act Decision — 31 January 2014

Doc No 24 — Dredge Material Disposal — Permit Assessment — 31 January 2012