

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

Question No: 68
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: ABBOT POINT PROJECT
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 17 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

The conditions of approval include, at condition 31(d), a reference to sediment which is potentially available for re-suspension. This is not defined.

- a) What is the Department's best understanding of this concept?
- b) What proportion of the total sediment dumped at sea under the approval does the Department expect to be available for re-suspension?

Answer:

a) & b) Condition 31(d) of the Abbot Point Capital Dredging project refers to the offsetting of fine sediment. Fine sediments have been defined in the *Improved Dredge Material Management for the Great Barrier Reef Region* report as particles <16 µm. The type and amount of sediment that resuspends is dependent on a number of factors, including particle size and oceanographic conditions. Up to 30% of the total dredged sediment may be fine sediment and may be potentially available for re-suspension, based on the analysis of fine sediment in the *Improved Dredge Material Management for the Great Barrier Reef Region* report. Under the conditions of approval for the Abbot Point Capital Dredging project, the Technical Advisory Panel may provide advice on the definition of fine sediment.