

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

Question No: 21
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division
Topic: REEF 2050 LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
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Question Date: 30 October 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Ms Lane: That is right. It closed on 27 October.

Senator SINGH: In summary, what has been the nature of those submissions?

Ms Lane: I would have to take the detail of the comments within the submissions on notice, because we are still working through a process of analysing them. I can say that there were almost 7,000 submissions—a number of those were emails, a number were responses to a survey form that we had developed, and a number were detailed submissions. I cannot really go into the detail as yet on the nature of the comments coming through in those submissions. There will be a consultation report made publicly available.

Senator SINGH: Were some of them campaign submissions?

Ms Lane: That is correct.

Senator SINGH: If you could take that on notice, that would be great, including the numbers and sources of the campaign submissions.

Ms Lane: I am happy to do that.

Mr Thompson: I can probably give you an answer to that now, if you like. The total of campaign-type submissions was 6,827—6,767 were linked to the WWF campaign; 54 to the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre; six to an organisation called Bony Fish, which is not one I am familiar with; 41 online surveys; and a further 77 emails of which 56 were lengthy submissions, 16 were short submissions and there were still some expected late lengthy submissions at the time of reporting. Ms Lane's bigger number of 7,000 might have taken into account some of those late ones.

Answer:

The Department received a total of 6809 submissions during the consultation period. This included:

- 87 emailed or written submissions (some of which were received after the deadline of 11:59 27 October because a request for an extension was granted)
- 41 online surveys
- 6681 campaign style submissions comprising:
 - WWF – 6621 submissions
 - Cairns and Far North Environment Centre – 54 submissions
 - Recreational fishers - 6 submissions

The six submissions reported to be received from an organisation called 'Bony Fish' were from a small group of recreational fishers.

A large number of campaign style submissions were received after the deadline of 11:59 on 27 October 2015. The larger number of 7000 included an estimate of the total number received as at the time evidence was being given to the Senate Committee.

Issues raised during the consultation period will be captured in the consultation report, and will inform development of the Plan.