

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

**Question No:** 27  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division  
**Topic:** REEF TRUST - FUNDING  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Singh asked:**

1. When does the Department expect the Trust to be in a position to accept extra funding?
2. What happens if the money runs out before the Trust is shut down in 2024?

**Answer:**

1. The *Reef Trust Special Account 2014* was established on 1 October 2014 through a Determination to the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. In accordance with the Determination's crediting clauses, the Reef Trust can now receive amounts from Commonwealth appropriations or external sources.
2. The Australian Government provided an initial investment of \$40.0 million to the Reef Trust through the 2014-15 Budget. Decisions around future funding commitments will be considered by the Government as part of future Budget processes.

The financial arrangements for non-commonwealth monies will continue to be evaluated overtime. Prior to the sunset of the special account on 1 October 2024, the Reef Trust will be evaluated to identify future options for financial arrangements.