

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

**Question No:** 374  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Director of National Parks  
**Topic:** BIOREGIONAL ADVISORY PANELS  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Singh asked:**

The Bioregional Advisory panels will to undertake “genuine and appropriate” consultation with communities. Is the Department unable to undertake “genuine and appropriate” consultation with communities?

- a. How is that consultation process taking place?
- b. Who has been consulted?
- c. Why has the Department’s role in engagement and consultation been outsourced to the Bioregional Advisory Panels?

**Answer:**

The Department undertakes consultation on a range of statutory and non statutory matters. In this case, as it is an independent Review, the panels will undertake the consultation.

- a. The nature and scope of the consultation to be undertaken will be determined by the Review Panels. It is anticipated that the Panels will meet with key stakeholders in each of the regions that are part of the Review: the South-west; North-west; North; Temperate East and Coral Sea.
- b. The Panels have had their initial meetings and have also held a meeting with national-level stakeholders.
- c. The Government established the independent Review and terms of reference for the Panels. The Government’s stated intention was to ensure an independent and community driven process.