

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

**Question No:** 381  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Director of National Parks  
**Topic:** COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Singh asked:**

In the review's Terms of Reference that the new management plans will be informed by the best available science. What will be defined as the "best available science"?

- a. Who is making the definition?
- b. What best available science was not utilised in the development of the scrapped management plans?

**Answer:**

The Expert Science Panel will be looking at any recent science published since the development of the management plans as well as any papers received through the submission process. While the most up-to-date science informed the development of the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Networks, this process was finalised in 2012. There have been a number of additions to the published scientific literature since that time. The Review is an opportunity for the Expert Science Panel to consider the most recent science as well as the key scientific inputs in the development of the reserves.

- a. See above.
- b. The management plans for the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Networks were informed by the science that supported the development of the reserves as well as the Marine Bioregional Plans for each marine region.