

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

Question No: 390
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Director of National Parks
Topic: SCIENTIFIC PANELS TERMS OF REFERENCE
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Singh asked:

In the Scientific Panel's Terms of Reference that it will be reviewing the risk assessments and other scientific information relating to zoning decisions. What is the difference between the risk assessments and scientific information used for the five scrapped management plans and the risk assessments and scientific information used for the South-East network management plan?

- a. Will the Scientific Panel be reviewing any recent science that has been published since the development of the management plan?
- b. Will that science be used to update the South-East network management plan?
- c. If not, why not?

Answer:

A consistent methodology for risk assessments and other information that underpinned zoning decisions was applied in the development of all management plans, including the South-east.

- a. Yes. 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.
- b. The South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network management plan came into effect on 1 July 2013. It sets out the approach to and direction of management activities for the next 10 years. The management plan will be reviewed in 2023; all available science will inform the development of the next management plan.
- c. See answer (b).