

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

**Question No:** 48  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division  
**Topic:** CHRISTMAS ISLAND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PLAN  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Singh asked:**

Can you indicate the major themes emerging from the public consultation on the Christmas Island Biodiversity Conservation Plan?

- a. What are the next steps for the plan?
- b. When is the plan expected to be implemented?

**Answer:**

Most submissions that were received opposed the draft Christmas Island Biodiversity Conservation Plan, citing concerns about the plan's potential impact on the island's economic and social development and calling for the plan to be either abandoned or restricted in its operation to Christmas Island National Park.

- a. The Department is analysing the submissions to identify possible amendments that could be made to the draft plan. Further consultation is planned with relevant stakeholders to discuss the issues of concern and to review the draft plan. A revised draft plan is scheduled to be considered by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee in early 2015.
- b. It is intended that the plan be finalised for consideration by the Minister by mid-2015.