

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

Question No: 19
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Reef Trust - investment strategy
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 21 October 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

1. With regards to the Reef Trust's investment strategy, can you please provide a summary of the outcomes from the Australian Crime Commission's investigation into an environmental crime with respect to turtle and dugong? What was the crime(s)? When did the investigation begin and end and how much did it cost the Reef Trust?

Answer:

A funding agreement with the Australian Crime Commission (the Commission) was executed on 2 September 2014, as part of the first phase of Reef Trust investment. The agreement is scheduled to conclude on 30 June 2016.

The funding supports the Commission to undertake investigative activities pertaining to the nature and extent of environmental crime, including the illegal killing and poaching of dugong and turtles, as well as transportation of meat and other products.

The Commission's investigation into the illegal hunting and sale of dugong and turtle meat is ongoing. The Commission's findings will be reported to the Minister for the Environment by 30 June 2016 when the investigation is due to conclude.

\$1.978 million has been contracted from the Reef Trust for the delivery of this project.