

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

Question No: 30
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Spending of Reef Trust Funds
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 21 October 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart, asked:

1. Who will determine the conservation projects that reef trust funds are spend on?

Answer:

1. Prioritisation of Reef Trust investments involves a collaborative approach with scientific institutions, community and management agencies to ensure a robust scientific and economic process to identify the high priority actions for Reef Trust investment.

Independent expert advice on Reef Trust funding priorities is provided by the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel, chaired by the Commonwealth Chief Scientist Ian Chubb. The Panel consists of eminent experts from a number of scientific fields and considers and advises on priorities and projects for the Reef Trust.

The final decision on which projects will be funded under the Reef Trust will be made by the Minister for the Environment.

The generalised process for prioritising Reef Trust outcomes, as used for the first two phases of investment is summarised in the figure below:

