

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

Question No: 53
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment submissions - Terrestrial Assessment
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 07 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

With regard to the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment undertaken by the Queensland Government and supervised by the federal Environment Department,

1. The Australian newspaper reported on 2 February 2014 about the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) submission to the Strategic Assessment calling for weaker sea dumping laws. Can the Department provide a copy of that submission?
2. Is the Department intending to ensure that submissions to the Strategic Assessment are made public?
3. Has the Department written to the submitters to ask their permission to publicise their submissions?
4. How many submissions were received on each of the GBR Strategic Assessments? How many substantive submissions were received?

Answer:

1. The Queensland Resources Council submission to the strategic assessment is available publicly on the Internet. It can be found at: www.qrc.org.au
2. The Department is writing to all submitters seeking permission to publicly release their submissions
3. See answer 2 above.
4. The Queensland Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority have advised that 6616 submissions were received for the GBR strategic assessments. 6008 of these were petition-style campaign submissions, 376 were survey submissions and 232 submissions were received by email or post.

As submitters did not always identify which strategic assessment their comments related to, made comments on both strategic assessments or commented on the Great Barrier Reef in general without reference to the strategic assessments, the Department is unable to provide a breakdown of submission numbers by each strategic assessment.