

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Additional Estimates, February 2010

Outcome:	1	Question No:	25
Program:	1.1		
Division/Agency:	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
Topic:	Reef rescue – indigenous program		
Hansard Page ECA:	30 (9/2/10)		

Senator IAN MACDONALD asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can you indicate how much you have spent on both those programs to date, perhaps on notice?

Dr Reichelt—Do you have those figures to hand?

Ms Johnson—For marine monitoring this year, \$1.5 million to date.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—And the Indigenous program?

Ms Johnson—I only have the marine.

Dr Reichelt—Apologies, Senator. We do not have that figure here, but I am happy to reply.

Answers:

Written advice has been forwarded to the Chair of the Committee that Ms Johnson's statement should have been 'For marine monitoring this year, \$1.5 million committed to date'.

Actual Expenditure by the GBRMPA on these programs in the period 1 July 2008 to 31 January 2010 is:

- Marine Monitoring Program \$2,939,997
- Indigenous Partnerships \$741,615

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Additional Estimates, February 2010

Outcome:	1	Question No:	26
Program:	1.1		
Division/Agency:	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
Topic:	GBRMPA – Budget figures		
Hansard Page ECA:	30 (9/2/10)		

Senator MACDONALD asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—I do not want to embarrass you, but how is the overall budget going? You have had additional commitments imposed upon you from elections and your budget has decreased. How are you managing to make two ends meet when it is very difficult?

Dr Reichelt—The results from last year reported in the annual report show that we have had a decline in revenue for a number of reasons. I could ask Mr Elliot to run through those. We have had a contraction. We have had a number of programs finish and reduced staff numbers. We have reduced from, I think, 220 to 212 in the past six months. We are managing by reducing staff numbers in programs that have finished. If you would like something more specific, I can ask Mr Elliot to tell you exactly.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Unless you can give me figures, and they are probably better on notice.

Answers:

Total budgeted funds available to the GBRMPA in 2009-10 will be \$2.184 million less than 2008-09 actual due to:

- completion of the Response Foreign Fishing Vessels Program and other adjustments for field management activities (-\$1.02 million);
- variations for the Gershon review, indexation and efficiency dividend (+\$6K);
- estimated reduction in Special Appropriation derived from the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) (-\$180K)
- an increase in administered appropriation (+\$100K)
- funding for Reef Rescue (-\$330K), and
- a reduction in revenue received for projects that were completed in 2008-09 (-\$760K).

\$5,243,473 has been collected for the EMC from 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010. This is \$34,055 more than for the same period in 2008-09. Actual EMC collections for 2008-09 were \$722K less than original estimates.

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Additional Estimates, February 2010

Outcome:	1	Question No:	27
Program:	1.1		
Division/Agency:	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
Topic:	Land and Sea country and Indigenous Partnerships program		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Please provide a breakdown of all expenditures incurred to date and allocated into the future under the \$10 million Land and Sea Country and Indigenous Partnerships Program promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election under the Great Barrier Reef Rescue Plan.

Answers:

Expenditure by the GBRMPA on this program in the period 1 July 2008 to 31 January 2010 is \$741,615.

Breakdown:

Employee Expenses	\$270,702
Travel	\$148,603
Consultants.....	\$113,557
Operations	\$90,426
Corporate Expenses	<u>\$118,327</u>
Total	<u>\$741,615</u>

Total funding approved to 30 June 2011 is \$4.350 million (inclusive of the \$741,615 expended up to 31 January 2010).