

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

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Budget Estimates, May 2010

Outcome:	1	Question No:	13
Program:	1.1		
Division/Agency:	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
Topic:	Reef Guardian Program		
Hansard Page ECA:	46 (26/5/10)		

Senator MARSHALL asked:

Senator MARSHALL—I understand the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has received additional funding for the Reef Guardian program this year. Can you tell me about the program? How long has it been going, and what has it achieved so far?

Dr Reichelt—Thank you for that question. The Reef Guardian program has been running for about three years now. I can check, but it is approximately three to four years old. It began with a schools program, and that has been running ahead of our expectations. We have now membership of 194 schools involving over 60,000 students, and it has been a very effective way of fulfilling our obligations under the act regarding educating people about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. We have found that it has been a very cost effective way to inform young children about the values of preventing run-off and pollution for the environment, and environmentally sustainable practices. It is still increasing. It will reach a natural limit when we have reached all the schools.

...

Senator MARSHALL—Would you, on notice, provide a list of those schools to us?

Dr Reichelt—Yes, I would.

Answer:

See Attachment A.

Reef Guardian Schools

Agnes Water State School
Airville State School
Aitkenvale State School
Annandale Christian School
Annandale State School
Ayr East State School
Bargara State School
Beaconsfield State School
Belgian Gardens State School
Bloomfield River State School
Bloomsbury State School
Bowen State High School
Bowen State Primary School
Boyne Island State School
Bulimba State School
Bundaberg Christian College
Burdekin Christian College
Burnett Heads State School
Bwgcolman Youth Education Centre
Calvery Christian College
Cannonvale State School
Cavendish Road State High School
Chanel College
Charters Towers State High School
Clare State School
Clermont State High School
Cleveland District State High School
Clinton State School
Collinsville State High School
Coningsby State Primary School
Cooktown State School
Craigslea State High School
Cranbrook State School
Elliott Heads State School
Emerald Christian College
Emerald State High School
Emmaus College
Emu Park State School
Farleigh State School
Farnborough State School
Feluga State School
Frenchville State School
Gladstone Central State School
Gladstone South State School
Gladstone West State School
Glenmore State School
Good Counsel College
Goovigen State School
Gordonvale State High School
Gordonvale State School
Gumlu State School
Gympie East State School
Gympie State High School
Hambeldon State School
Hamilton Island State School
Hayman Island State School
Heatley Secondary College
Hermit Park State School
Hervey Bay State High School
Holy Cross School
Holy Spirit College
Holy Spirit School
Hopevale State School
Ignatius Park College
Innisfail State High School
Isabella State School
Jones Hill State School
Kalkie State School
Kelso State School
Keppel Sands State School
Kin Kora State School
Kirwan State Primary School
Kolan South State School
Lockhart River State School
Lower Tully State School
Machans Beach State School
Mackay District Special School
Magnetic Island State School
Mansfield High School
Marist College
Mena Creek State School
Mercy College
Merinda State School
Mirani High School
Miriam Vale State School
Miriwinni State School
Mission Beach State School
Moore Park State School
Moranbah East State School
Moranbah State School
Moresby State School
Morningside State School
Mother of Good Counsel
Mount Larcom State School
Mourilyan State School
Mt Gravatt State High School
Mundingburra State School
Murray River Upper State School

Northern Beaches State High School
Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) State College
Oonoonba State School
Our Lady of Lourdes
Out Lady's School
Pialba State School
Port Curtis Road State School
Port Douglas State School
Proston State School
Queens Beach State School
Rainbow Beach State School
Rasmussen State Primary
Rockhampton State High School
Ryan Catholic College (Junior) and (5-12)
Sacred Heart Primary School
Sarina State School
Seaforth State School
Sharon State School
Slade Point State School
South Johnstone State School
Southern Cross Catholic School
St Andrew's Catholic College
St Anne's Catholic Primary School
St Anthony's Catholic College (secondary)
St Brendans College
St Brigid's Catholic primary
St Catherine's School
St Clares State School, Tully
St Colman's School
St Frances Catholic Primary School, Tannum
Sands
St Francis Xavier's School
St Helens State School
St John Bosco Catholic School
St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School
St Joseph's Mundingburra
St Joseph's North Ward
St Joseph's Park Avenue
St Joseph's School Bundaberg
St Lukes Anglican School
St Margaret Mary's College
St Mary's College

St Mary's School Bowen
St Michael's (Palm Island)
St Patrick's College
Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
Stuart State School
Sunshine Beach State High School
Tagai State College (All 19 campus')
Tannum Sands State High School
Taranganba State School
The Cathedral School of St Anne & St James
The Hall State School
The Weir State School
The Willows State School
Thuringowa State High School
Tin Can Bay State School
Tinana State School
Toolooa State High School
Torquay State School
Townsville Central State School
Townsville Grammar School
Townsville South State School
Townsville State High School
Townsville West State School
Tresswell State School
Trinity Beach State School
Two Mile State School
Victoria Point State High School
Vincent State School
Wartburg State School
Wellington Point State High School
White Rock State School
Whitfield State School
Wondai State School
Wonga Beach State School
Woongarra State School
Woree State Primary
Yandaran State School
Yarrliee State School
Yeppoon State High School
Yeppoon State School
Yorkeys Knob

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	14
Program:	1.1		
Division/Agency:	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
Topic:	Shen Neng 1 incident costs		
Hansard Page ECA:	48 (26/5/10)		

Senator SIEWERT asked:

Senator SIEWERT—I would like to go, if possible to the impact of the tanker, *Shen Neng 1*. Has the authority incurred any costs through dealing with that incident, and what are they?

Dr Reichelt—I do not have the figures. We are certainly counting those costs; I just have not had a report on them. From day one we began recording all of the costs of our staff time, travel expenses, communications, operations in the field, at times involving 20 or 30 of our 200 staff. I think they will be significant. I just cannot give you a precise figure here.

Senator SIEWERT—Can you take that on notice?

Dr Reichelt—Yes.

Answer:

The cost to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 31 May 2010 is \$438 000 including salary costs of \$272 465.

Costs are expected to be incurred into the future relating to investigations, laboratory analysis, legal advice, as well as any cleanup and remediation.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	15
Program:	1.1		
Division/Agency:	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
Topic:	Antifouling paint – affected area		
Hansard Page ECA:	49 and 53 (26/5/10)		

Senator SIEWERT asked:

[ECA 49] **Senator SIEWERT**—Is it possible to tell me what size area we are now talking about that is being impacted by the antifouling paint?

Dr Reichelt—I cannot give you that figure precisely. The figure I saw in a very preliminary report had not mapped the whole extent of it but it was something like 35,000 square metres, something of that order. I think for the precise figures it would be best if we can wait for that report.

...

[ECA 53] **Senator SIEWERT**—I would like to clarify so that I have not misunderstood. When we were talking about the antifouling paint, you said 35,000 square metres. Is that correct?

Dr Reichelt—I said I had seen that as a preliminary figure and I asked if you would bear that in mind. We will get you the precise estimates as the report becomes public.

Answer:

Initial analysis of surveys suggest the ship grounded over a length of approximately 2.5km and the width of the scar was at times observed to be around 250m. The potential for grounding impacts to the shoal and likewise contamination by antifoulant paint is therefore coarsely estimated at 625 000 m².

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	16
Program:	1.1		
Division/Agency:	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
Topic:	Antifouling paint – ongoing impact		
Hansard Page ECA:	50 (26/5/10)		

Senator SIEWERT asked:

Senator SIEWERT—I just want to go back to this issue of ships continuing to use the park with these particular paints. This has been an ongoing issue for years and years and years. You told me to talk to Transport, which obviously I will, but is the authority still having ongoing discussions about this, because this is not the first time this has happened? Are you having ongoing discussions not just about collisions but about the ongoing effect this antifouling paint can have on the marine park?

Dr Reichelt—We have raised the general issue as recently as within the last month of thinking beyond oil to hazardous noxious substances in the marine parks, and that would include the antifouling on ships and noxious substances as cargoes. We are very interested in raising that in the national operational forums under the national plan.

Senator SIEWERT—What is the timeframe for dealing with that? We have been having this debate about antifoulants for years and years and years

Dr Reichelt—I am not sure of the timing of the reporting of those operational groups. I could try and get more information on the timing.

Senator SIEWERT—We would appreciate it if you could. ...

Answer:

Harmful anti-fouling paints, including those containing organotins (commonly referred to as TBT), were completely prohibited by 1 January 2008 under Australian law and international conventions.

Australia developed specific legislation, the *Protection of the Sea (Harmful Anti-fouling Systems) Act 2006*, which commenced on 27 September 2006 to address the issue of harmful anti-fouling paint systems. This was in support of international efforts lead by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The IMO, through adoption of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, called for a global prohibition on the application of organotin compounds which act as biocides in anti-fouling systems on ships. These compounds were completely prohibited by 1 January 2008.

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Therefore under the Convention and under Australian law, ships such as the *Shen Neng 1* either:

- a) shall not bear such compounds on their hulls or external parts or surfaces; or
- b) shall bear a coating that forms a barrier to such compounds leaching from the underlying non-compliant anti-fouling systems.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is not able to provide a definitive timeframe for dealing with the issue of hazardous noxious substances in marine parks.

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 17
Program: 1.1
Division/Agency: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Authority
Topic: GBRMPA staffing levels
Hansard Page ECA: 51 (26/5/10)

Senator IAN MACDONALD asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Do you have before you or can you obtain on notice the staffing levels over, say, the last three years? I ask this every year, so it should be somewhere.

Dr Reichelt—We can easily provide that.

Answer:

Year	Staffing Level
2006/07	196
2007/08	224
2008/09	208

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	18
Program:	1.1		
Division/Agency:	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
Topic:	Environment management charge		
Hansard Page ECA:	51-52 (26/5/10)		

Senator IAN MACDONALD asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—... Someone else asked about the environment management charge collections and you said they were down. Can you be more specific about that?

Dr Reichelt—Yes, we can. We can run through the last couple of years.

Mr Elliot—Last year we originally predicted \$8.2 million in collections for the entire year. That is the last financial year and not this one. We ended up collecting \$7.48 million, which was approximately \$700,000 down on estimates. This financial year when we did the original estimates, which was long before the financial year started, based on the same visitation numbers we were looking at about \$8 million. We revised that down to \$7.3 million. We are now expecting to get \$7.5 million this year. We are looking at the same figure this year to what we collected last year, within \$20,000 to \$30,000.

...

Dr Reichelt—We would make clear that those years are well below the historical average.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—That was my next question. Do you have in front of you in your briefing notes what they were for the couple of years before that?

Mr Elliot—As I said, last year it was \$7.48 million. The year before that it was just over \$8.04 million, from memory. The year before that I would have to take on notice.

Answer:

Year	Environment Management Charge collection
2008-09	\$7,478,453
2007-08	\$8,027,177
2006-07	\$7,246,381
2005-06	\$7,271,639