

**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

<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	45
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Coral Sea conservation zone maps		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	86 (26/5/10)		

**Senator BOSWELL asked:**

**Senator BOSWELL**—As a matter of interest, when the Pew foundation announced the Coral Sea Conservation Zone in September 2008 the Pew maps were exactly the same as the maps that the department put out. The Pew maps were given; I do not know whether the department used the maps, but it would have to be about a billion-to-one chance that the maps would be the same.

**Mr Oxley**—The boundaries of Australia's exclusive economic zone are reasonably easy to map.

**Senator BOSWELL**—Yes, they are.

**Mr Oxley**—We have used the same boundaries. We have used the boundary of the EEZ.

**Senator Wong**—Can we let Mr Oxley finish his answer before you ask the next question?

**Senator BOSWELL**—Yes. The cut-off at Bundaberg, or the southern boundary, is exactly the same as Pew put forward to the government.

**Mr Oxley**—I will take that on notice.

**Senator BOSWELL**—Is it a coincidence?

**Mr Oxley**—I do not know whether it is a coincidence, whether it is intentional or whether it reflects the established known accepted boundary of the Coral Sea. I will take that one on notice.

**Answer:**

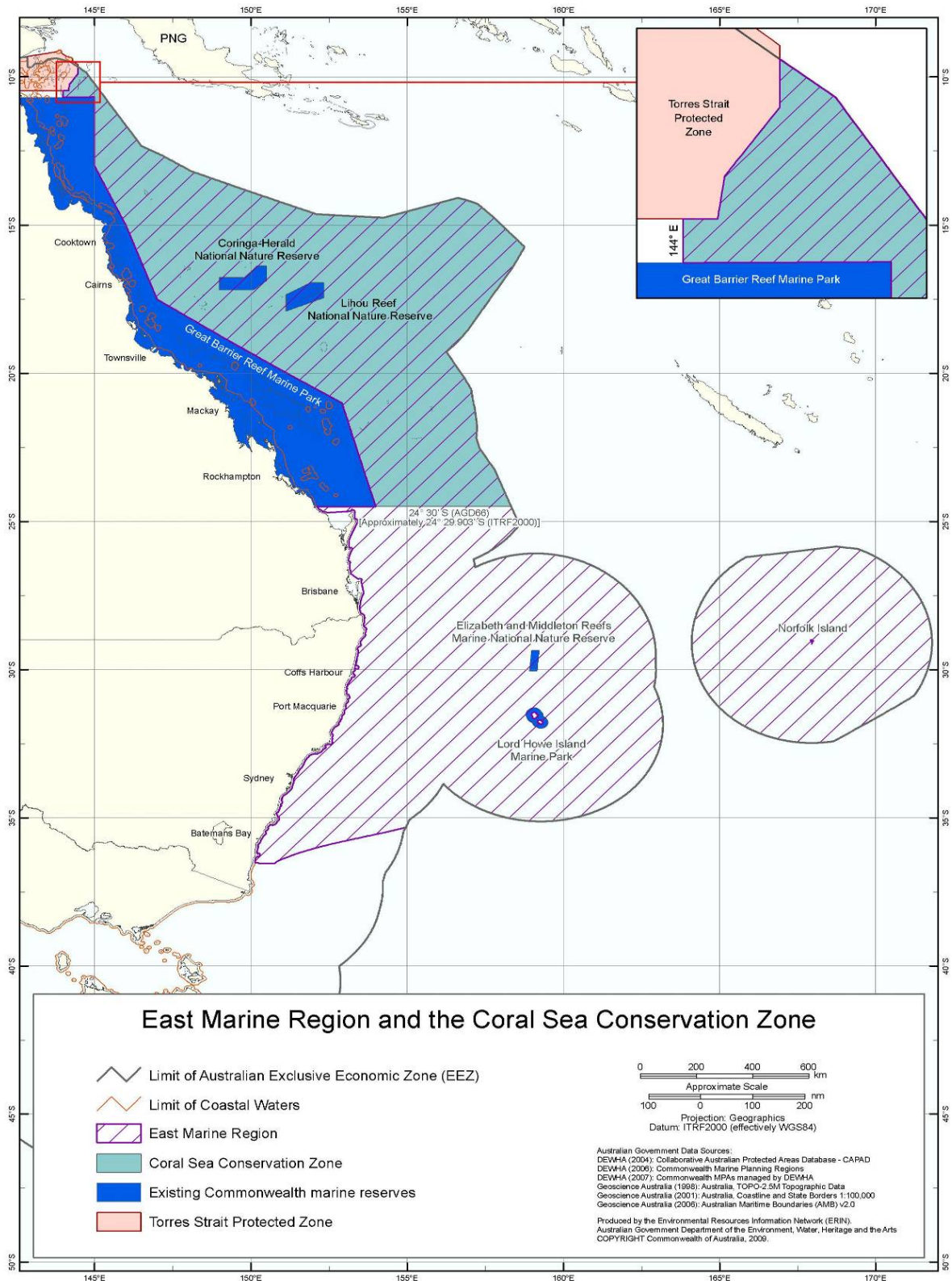
The southern boundary for the Coral Sea Conservation Zone was determined so that it aligned with the southern boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park which is just north of Bundaberg.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	46
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Coral Sea – displaced stakeholder advisory group		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	87 (26/5/10)		

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

**Senator COLBECK**—You said at last estimates that this group was to convene in March. Did it do that? Can you give us a list of the dates of meetings on notice?

**Mr Oxley**—We commenced in April, as it turned out, and not March, if I remember correctly.

**Senator COLBECK**—Have there been further meetings?

**Mr Oxley**—No, there have not.

**Senator COLBECK**—Is the expert review to the stakeholders advisory group a public document?

**Mr Oxley**—It is not a public document as such.

**Senator BOSWELL**—I can get you a copy.

**Mr Oxley**—I will take it on notice and perhaps we will be able to save Senator Boswell the trouble.

**Answers:**

As of the 30 June 2010, the Department has held three Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings. These were held on 8 July 2009, 28 July 2009, and 16 April 2010.

The department commissioned a report from Maximus Solutions, entitled *Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas Displaced Activities Analysis*, on the policy, economic and legal implications for existing activities of the declaration of new marine reserves. The report has been released to the Stakeholder Advisory Group and is also publicly available on the Department's website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/about/index.html>.

This report is one input into the development of the Australian Government's policy on assistance to deal with the impacts of creating new marine reserves. It does not represent Australian Government policy. The report is being considered along side input from Government agencies, industry and other users.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	47
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Statutory fishing rights		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	87 (26/5/10)		

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

**Senator COLBECK**—I think I indicated that I appreciated the approach. The issue of compensation was traversed in Agriculture the other day, which you probably noted. What interactions are there in respect of the issue of the status of statutory fishing rights? Where does that fit within the scope of things from your perspective? I am not trying to place a trap or anything.

**Mr Oxley**—Could you be clearer with your question?

**Senator COLBECK**—You sort of addressed it with Senator Boswell, because you talked about the different types of licences and fishing rights. I am aware that there is, and has been for a period of time, some review of that process within government. I am just wondering what your agency's input into that process was, bearing in mind that it potentially has a significant impact on the policy decisions that the government makes—I am not saying you—and recognising that you have also indicated that the government might necessarily make a policy decision on those issues as part of this process.

**Mr Oxley**—Are you talking about a review of statutory fishing rights occurring within the agriculture portfolio or are you talking about it in the context of displaced activities policy?

**Senator COLBECK**—There is a review of the process going on. They impact on each other. There is discussion about the status of those rights within the agriculture policy. I just wondered whether you have been consulted on that, but then the status of those plays into the issue of displaced stakeholder interests.

**Mr Oxley**—To the best of my knowledge I, personally, have not been involved in any discussion about any review of statutory fishing rights occurring within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio. I will need to take it on notice as to whether the department or the marine division has been consulted.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has not been consulted on any review of statutory fishing rights occurring within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	48
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	IOTC decision to protect thresher sharks		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Page 89 (26/05/10)		

**Senator COLBEK asked:**

**Senator COLBECK**—Did you have any input into the submission that went with the AFMA delegation to that commission meeting in Korea?

**Mr Oxley**—I will ask Mr Routh to answer that.

**Mr Routh**—Yes, there was a process between relevant agencies to develop that brief.

**Senator COLBECK**—Was there any consultation outside the agency in the development of the submission?

**Mr Routh**—I would have to check and take it on notice, but recognising that it was not a DEWHA lead—

**Senator COLBECK**—No, I understand that, but I know that people who have an interest in these things ring you up and send you submissions and stuff, and that is what I am interested to know: what inputs from outside the agency came in and what submissions did you receive. I am happy for you to take that on notice, given time.

**Mr Routh**—Can we just be clear on what is being taken on notice? We will take on notice a question about any submissions or engagement that DEWHA received, but if there are questions about external engagement for DAFF then that question is for that portfolio.

**Senator COLBECK**—We have already had our conversation. You just have the fortune or misfortune to be after them.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) did not undertake any consultation or directly receive any submissions in relation to any items discussed at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) held in March 2010. DEWHA was provided, unsolicited, by the Bureau of Rural Science, a submission it received from Oceana, which urged support for a European Union proposal for conservation of thresher and hammerhead sharks. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry leads Australia's engagement in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, including the IOTC.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	49
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Northern bioregional planning process		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	91-92 (26/5/10)		

**Senator IAN MACDONALD asked:**

**Mr Oxley**—I have not seen the questions that were asked of DAFF. I presume that if they took on notice questions in relation to the operations of our portfolio they would be referred on to us.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—They were mainly about the Gulf of Carpentaria, the northern bioregional planning process, where I was very, very critical of the so-called consultation. With the time limited, perhaps I could simply refer you to what I said on Monday night in relation to that and if DAFF have not answered it to your satisfaction, or where it particularly involves your department—you will see I have been critical of your department in it and also critical of DAFF for not standing up for the fishermen as well as they should as in the past that department has stood up for fishermen—but rather than repeat them here with the limited time we have got and in deference to my colleagues and the chair could you have a look at that but answer that on notice to me.

...

**Mr Oxley**—Yes. Sorry, I am aware that there were a range of questions raised in relation to marine bioregional planning. As to that specific one that I am guessing you are referring to about a meeting at Normanton that you attended with several other members of parliament there were fishers who felt that they did not have an adequate understanding of the process, or effective engagement in the process, and then I think it was a chamber of commerce or some similar type of organisation which felt that it had no real understanding of the process. Subsequent to that we have had staff up there this week meeting with those two particular groups and making sure that they are engaged.

...

**Mr Oxley**—I do not know that I would agree with that statement but let me say, first, in relation to the questions that you posed at the DAFF estimates the other night, I will undertake to review those questions and if we can assist in providing clarification on answers in relation to those, we will. In relation to the suggestion that—excuse me for paraphrasing—the conservation NGOs got a look in but no-one else did, the engagement that we had up in the Gulf of Carpentaria at the beginning of this year was actually initiated by the Gulf Savannah Fishermen's Association, I think it was called, and we went and met specifically with a number of fishers at their request. While we were there we also had meetings with representatives of the local—it is not a chamber of commerce there, is it, but it is—

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Progress.

**Mr Oxley**—The progress association was involved in a meeting with us as well. I think we have provided advice previously on that, but perhaps not to the Senate. I am happy to also provide some clarification about what engagement did happen on that occasion.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—I am pleased to hear that, but let me say that the two groups most involved—that is, the business groups, by whatever name they go, and the fishing groups, by whatever name they go—did not even know about this until almost after the first consultation was over and done with. My point is: there is an example. But I would ask from what we said the other night if you could perhaps respond to the whole process of how consultation occurs?

**Mr Oxley**—Certainly.

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**Answers:**

Clarification of engagement with the Gulf Commercial Fishermen Association in early 2010

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) was invited to a meeting in Karumba convened by the Gulf Commercial Fishermen Association and the Queensland Seafood Industry Association on 13-14 January 2010. DEWHA officers met with commercial fishers at the meeting who provided further detailed information to DEWHA about their respective fishing operations and discussed a range of fishing related issues in the Gulf, including, but not limited to, Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) in the North Marine Region. Much of the information discussed with DEWHA officers was provided by fishers on a commercial-in-confidence basis.

Attendees also included the Karumba Progress Association and the Local Chandlery, which discussed consultation processes in relation to Marine Bioregional Planning in the North Marine Region with DEWHA officers.

Stakeholder Consultation Process for Marine Bioregional Planning

The marine bioregional planning process involves three key steps: preparation of a Bioregional Profile, development of a draft Marine Bioregional Plan, and completion of a final Marine Bioregional Plan.

Stakeholder engagement is an integral part of the planning process for the production of Marine Bioregional Plans, and is interspersed throughout the development phases.

The focus of engagement throughout the marine bioregional planning process has generally occurred at the regional level through discussions with specific sectors, or elements within a sector which may be affected by proposed management arrangements. The focus of this engagement in the regions has been at the sectoral level with industry peak bodies or representative bodies rather than with the general public. Stakeholders are encouraged to work through their industry representative in the first instance, however, DEWHA has met with individuals and small groups who may not be represented by an industry peak body.

Regional engagement has focused on informing stakeholders, sharing information, obtaining additional finer scale information and data, seeking input on specific areas and matters in order to fully understand the potential impacts of proposals put forward.

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Consultation to date has been in accordance with the following key milestones which were supported by engagement with relevant stakeholders and people with an interest in marine planning.

- Development of Marine Bioregional Profiles
- Release of the Marine Bioregional Profiles
- Release of the Areas for Further Assessment

*1. Development of Marine Bioregional Profiles*

The marine bioregional planning program commenced in 2006. This marked the onset of the development phase; collecting and collating information about the biodiversity and conservation features of the region to accurately represent the conservation values we are aiming to address in marine plans. The process of gathering this information also identified information gaps and uncertainties that pointed to areas for further investigation in subsequent stages of developing the Marine Bioregional Plans.

As stakeholders became engaged in the process, it was evident that some groups wanted to be highly involved in the process and others preferred to be kept informed. Recognising this, different methods have been used ranging from one-on-one consultations with sectoral groups, to forums and workshops for stakeholders, web-site and targeted publications, and media releases and articles in the media.

*2. Release of the Marine Bioregional Profiles*

Bioregional Profiles have been released for the South-west, North-west, North and East Marine Regions. The Bioregional Profiles describe the ecological and biophysical features and the conservation values of each Region and outline human activities that occur within each Region. The Goals and Principles that guide the identification of new marine reserves are also described in the Profiles.

Following the release of the Bioregional Profile workshops were held at the regional level. The aim of the workshops was to seek feedback from stakeholders on the information provided in the Profile, and also the information underpinning it. They provided an opportunity for discussion on new and/or additional information that stakeholders would like to see included in the assessment/development process for the draft plan.

*3. Release of the Areas for Further Assessment*

AFAs are large areas which encompass a wide range of biodiversity and are areas within which new marine reserves are proposed to be located. AFAs have been released for the South-west, North-west, North and East Marine Regions.

Prior to commencing regional meetings, planning teams met with Commonwealth and state and territory government agencies, seeking their views, assessing possible risks and informing them of the forward stakeholder engagement schedule.

The stakeholder consultation model following release of the AFAs included a range of workshops, individual meetings and in some regions multi-sector information sessions. While consultation



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generally followed the model outlined below, there were variations between regions driven by stakeholders' needs and requests for different meeting arrangements.

Multi-sector stakeholder information sessions were held in the South-west, North and North-west Marine Regions and allowed a broad stakeholder audience from a number of sectors to be provided details of the AFAs at the same time and an opportunity to ask questions. These were followed by individual or smaller group discussions, usually with individual sectors, which allowed stakeholders to discuss the AFAs in more detail relevant to their specific interests.

Engagement in the East has followed a similar model but without multi-sectoral information sessions partly due to the geographic spread and requirements of interest groups in the region. Meetings have occurred in numerous towns and mostly with industry sectors, small groups and individuals.

The purpose of the AFAs was to focus attention on obtaining finer scale data (local knowledge) within these areas and make known our bioregional conservation objectives. The focus of stakeholder engagement at this time was to:

- inform them about AFAs and conservation objectives
- collect and refine information on distribution of values within areas, including social and economic values/activities
- explain that there will be formal statutory public consultation on draft plans.

Stakeholder engagement at this stage was primarily with individual or small groups of stakeholders. The need for these meetings came about from outcomes of the first round of engagement at the release of the AFAs as we learnt of other relevant stakeholders or particular sectoral issues and continued to meet with specific groups for further finer scale data.

Financial support was provided to some peak bodies (such as commercial fishing industry associations and recreational fishing associations) to assist their engagement with their constituents and to provide comprehensive feedback to DEWHA.

*Next steps*

The process for statutory consultation on the draft Marine Bioregional Plans is currently being finalised by DEWHA.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	50
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Funding for Whaling Issues		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	101 -102 (26/5/10)		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—In relation to issues surrounding whaling, what is funded within the forward year?

**Senator Wong**—Do you mean in this portfolio?

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—Yes.

**Mr Early**—I can take that on notice and give you a full breakdown.

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—A full breakdown would be great. In general terms we are looking at policy advice, obviously, and IWC engagement.

**Mr Early**—The research program?

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—Yes, the announced ones there. There are no other large areas that we are missing?

**Ms Kruk**—I think he is concerned that it might reflect unfavourably if he does not give the scope of coverage appropriately. Can we take that on notice? I think he has covered the major areas.

**Answer:**

Funding to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for whales initiatives for the financial year 2010-11 is as follows<sup>1, 2</sup>:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>FY Budget</b>
Policy Advice	\$1,361,000
International Whaling Commission Engagement	\$1,292,000
International Whaling and Marine Mammal Conservation Initiatives program	\$3,576,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,229,000</b>

Additional initiatives for which funding has been allocated but not yet announced include support for Australia's legal action in the International Court of Justice against Japanese so-called 'scientific' whaling.

<sup>1</sup> Funding amounts (FY Budget) include measures announced in 2008-09 for the International Whaling – Conservation and Diplomacy Initiatives (Administered funding 2010-11 \$1.789m, Departmental \$1.787m)

<sup>2</sup> Data has been sourced from SEWPAC FMIS (SAP) as at 30 September 2010.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	51
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Whale envoy activities		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	102 (26/5/10)		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—I got those words as well, thank you. In relation to the envoy's activities since we last met, where has he been and for how many days?

**Senator Wong**—Since when? February? Is that right?

**Ms Kruk**—I am not sure whether Mr Early has that sort of detail. Is that something we can take on notice otherwise? What sort of detail—sorry?

**Mr Early**—I have details in relation to October; I do not think I have got it since estimates. He has certainly been involved in meetings, but I have not got those figures since we last met. I can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The table below outlines where the Special Envoy for Whale Conservation, Sandy Hollway, has travelled since 8 February 2010 and the amount of time he has spent at each destination.

<b>City/Country</b>	<b>Number of days at destination</b>
Tampa, USA	6
Canberra	5
Washington DC, USA	5
London, UK	7
Brussels, Belgium	1
Berlin, Germany	1
Paris, France	1
Madrid, Spain	1
Agadir, Morocco	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	52
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Draft proposals to be put to the IWC		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	103 (26/5/10)		

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

**Senator SIEWERT**—How soon before the government’s announcement that it was going to be taking legal action was the government or the department aware of the proposals that were going to be put before IWC at the next meeting?

...

**Senator SIEWERT**—Maybe I misphrased that one. I am conscious that I will need to stop shortly. When was the department aware of the proposals from the working group? When were they put on the table and flagged or finalised through the working group process?

**Mr Early**—Ms Petrachenko was a member of the working group and was aware of developments as they occurred.

**Senator SIEWERT**—The developments were occurring. Can you tell us or remind us of when those proposals were formally announced?

**Mr Early**—The chair’s paper was formally released on 22 April, but I understand there was an earlier draft released in February or March.

**Senator SIEWERT**—February or early March?

**Mr Early**—Yes. I can get that exact date for you.

**Answers:**

At the 2008 annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Commission set up a Small Working Group (SWG) to assist it in arriving at a consensus solution to the main issues it faces. The SWG’s mandate was renewed in 2009 and was tasked to present a report on the results of its deliberations to the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the IWC. In 2009 a Support Group was also appointed to assist the IWC Chair in the preparation of material for submission to the SWG.

On 22 February 2010, following the Honolulu meeting of the IWC Support Group in January 2010, IWC Chair Ambassador Cristian Maqueira released his report of Support Group discussions. This report included a draft of a proposal which the Chair suggested could be considered by the 36-member SWG on 2-4 March 2010. In response to the Chair’s report, Australia released on 25 February 2010 its own nine-point proposal on the future of the IWC, which was also considered at the SWG meeting.

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After the SWG failed to achieve consensus on the Chair's document and following a Support Group meeting on 11-15 April 2010, the IWC Chair and Vice Chair Ambassador Liverpool submitted their independent *Proposed Consensus Decision to Improve the Conservation of Whales from the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission* ("the Chairs' proposal") on 22 April 2010. The Chairs' proposal was considered at the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the IWC, which took place from 21-25 June 2010.

Australia's legal action was announced on 28 May 2010 and the application was lodged with the International Court of Justice on 31 May 2010.

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<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Seafood consumption recommendations		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	104 (26/05/10)		

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

**Senator COLBECK**—I would like to ask one quick question to Marine before they go. They know about it, and I hope the answer will be brief. Has the department been provided with any advice or had any interaction with the Department of Health and Ageing or the NHMRC in relation to their recently released draft which recommends Australians eat seafood once a week, based on concerns over sustainability of fish stocks?

**Mr Oxley**—To the best of my knowledge, no, but for reasons of completeness we will check and, if the answer is different, we will provide that in response as a question on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has not been provided any advice by or had any interaction with the Department of Health and Ageing or the National Health and Medical Research Council in relation to their recently released draft which recommends Australians eat seafood once a week.

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<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	GBRMPA structural adjustment		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

1. Referring to the Great Barrier Reef structural adjustment package, has the structural adjustment program now been completed?
2. What was the final cost or current cost to date?
3. Has the Review into the components of the program other than the licence buyout been completed? If yes, please provide a copy
4. If yes, has the review or a report of the review been released publicly?
5. What were the review's conclusions as to the efficiency and effectiveness of the program?
6. Was it considered value for money?
7. Are you aware of concerns that the package is acting as a disincentive for similar zoning processes around the world, given its cost?
8. Are there any estimates as to the value of fishing on the GBR, before the zoning?

**Answers:**

1. Yes. All decisions relating to applications have been completed.
2. Assistance payments across all components of the program are \$215,250,820.
3. No.
4. No, not applicable (refer question 3).
5. Final conclusions are not yet available.
6. Final conclusions are not yet available.
7. No.
8. Yes. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority commissioned an economic and social evaluation of the potential impact of the rezoning. The November 2003 report, by Dr Tony Hand, stated that the gross value of production of Great Barrier Reef fisheries at that time was around \$130.1 million per annum.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	55
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Mako Sharks		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

1. What actions have been taken with respect to capture of data on mako sharks since the Minister announced amendments to the EPBC Act in January 2010?
2. What consultations have occurred about the issue of mako sharks since January? With whom? When?
3. How many exemptions have been provided? To whom? For how long?
4. Has DEWHA planned contingencies in case the EPBC Act amendments are not passed prior to the next major season starting in November?
5. What information on tag and release data has been gathered from NSW Fisheries?

**Answers:**

1. The Department has collected mako and porbeagle catch data from jurisdictions and reviewed *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) Part 13 accreditations of fifteen state and Commonwealth fisheries to ensure that these accreditations remained valid following the listing of mako and porbeagle sharks as migratory species.

The Department recently participated in a high level workshop which has given its support to a Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation project proposal submitted in the current Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Tactical Research Fund round. The project objectives include collection of all sources of mako and porbeagle catch data (recreational and commercial), analysis of data quality for identification of trends, and identifying information gaps to reduce the uncertainty of stock status in the future.

The Department will continue to progress work to allow implementation of measures to improve future data collection, including:

- i) collection of historic commercial fishing data on mako and porbeagle shark catch from jurisdictions;
- ii) collection of fishery interaction data (fish both retained and discarded), including spatial information; and
- iii) a preliminary data analysis of historic catch data.



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At this stage, the Department currently has historical logbook catch data on mako and porbeagle sharks from Commonwealth fisheries (1999 to 2008 for shortfin mako and porbeagle sharks, 2001 to 2008 for longfin mako sharks). The form of analysis that will be applied to this data is still being developed.

2. Officers from the Department provided advice on the listing of mako and porbeagle sharks and legislative amendments at the 23rd meeting of the Australian Fisheries Management Forum on 25 February 2010. A subsequent update was provided at a workshop held by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries on 31 May 2010. This meeting was attended by representatives from peak recreational fishing groups.

Since January 2010 the Department has replied to more than 300 pieces of correspondence to the Department relating to the listing. A significant proportion of these were from recreational fishers. The Department's website has been regularly updated to reflect the current status of the EPBC Act amendments to keep stakeholders informed of progress. Officers from the Department have responded to numerous phone enquiries from the public.

3. It is important to note that the Department has not provided any "exemptions" to any group, organisation or individual at any time and is not in a position to do so. Rather the Department's compliance section has provided advice that, consistent with the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy, no enforcement action will be taken against either a club or its members for actions that occur during sanctioned club events which promote sustainable fishing and avoid the killing of these sharks wherever possible.

The Department's compliance section has provided written advice, consistent with the above advice, on 16 occasions to Game Fishing Clubs or State Game Fishing Associations relating to fishing for mako Sharks since 29 January 2010.

4. The amendment was introduced on 25 February 2010, passed the House of Representatives on 15 March 2010, and passed the Senate on 21 June 2010. The legislation will come into effect on the day after it receives Royal Assent.
5. Information on tag and release fishing has been provided to the Department. This data will form an important part of the processes described in part 1 above.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	56
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Marine Bioregional Planning		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

1. Is any data being used in the Marine Bioregion planning process being kept confidential from stakeholder groups by DEWHA? If so, what is the data? Who has asked for the confidentiality?
2. Can you please provide a full breakdown, by Marine Bioregion, of all groups involved in the Marine Bioregion planning consultation in 2009-2010?
3. Can you please provide a full breakdown of consultative meeting conducted, including venue, date and attendees/organisations represented?

**Answers:**

1. In some instances access to information is restricted as it is subject to data licence conditions:
  - The Department is generally not licensed to provide fishing catch and effort data to third parties. This data is sourced from relevant Commonwealth, state and territory fisheries agencies, and is subject to strict data licence and/or confidentiality agreements. However, the Department has mapped or arranged to have mapped (through the Bureau of Rural Sciences) filtered forms of this data for the purpose of stakeholder engagement. Filtering is required to meet fisheries agency and industry Commercial-in-Confidence requirements, and is done by limiting displayed data to areas that are fished by 3 or more boats (Western Australia), or 5 or more boats (other jurisdictions).
  - The Department has contracted a range of species experts to identify Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for selected protected species in each region. Maps of BIAs will be made publicly available. Access to the raw or original data underpinning the BIA maps, however, will be determined pending agreement from contributing data providers and data custodians.
2. Across Australia consultation with relevant Commonwealth, state and Northern Territory agencies is ongoing.

Groups involved in Marine Bioregional Planning consultation in 2009-2010 include the following:

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National stakeholders consulted on the marine bioregional planning process:

- Commercial fisheries – Commonwealth Fisheries Association, National Seafood Industry Association
- Recreational fisheries – Recfish Australia, Boating Industry Australia
- Conservation groups – World Wide Fund for Nature, PEW Charitable Trusts, The Wilderness Society, Australian Marine Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy
- Minerals, oil and gas – Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association
- Ports and shipping – Shipping Australia
- Indigenous – Indigenous Advisory Council
- Stakeholder Advisory Group to the Displaced Activities Government Steering Group - Recfish Australia, Game Fishing Association of Australia, Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, World Wide Fund for Nature, Australian Shipowners Association, Ports Australia, Ecotourism Australia, Indigenous Advisory Council member, Australian Fishing Tackle Association, Charter Fishing Association

Stakeholders involved in the South-west marine bioregional planning process include:

- Conservation groups – e.g. The Wilderness Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, Australian Conservation Foundation, PEW Charitable Trusts, Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society, The Conservation Council of Western Australia, South Australia Conservation Council
- Commercial fisheries and aquaculture – eg. Commonwealth Fisheries Association; Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and its member organisations; the Western Australia's Aquaculture Development Council; Aquaculture Council of Western Australia; Pearl Producers Association; Wildcatch Fisheries South Australia and its member organisations
- Recreational fisheries – e.g. Recfish Australia, RecFishwest; SA Recreational Fishing Council, Esperance Game fishing club, Halco Tackle, Australian Fishing Tackle Association
- Indigenous organisations – Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (SA), Goldfields Land and Sea Council, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Yamatji Bana Baaba Marlpa Land and Sea Council (WA)
- Minerals, oil and gas – Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association; Chamber of Minerals and Energy (SA and WA).
- Tourism – Tourism Council of WA; SA Tourism Commission
- Ports and shipping –Ports WA; Flinders Ports; Shipping Australia

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Stakeholders involved in the North-west marine bioregional planning process include:

- Conservation groups – e.g. The Wilderness Society, PEW Charitable Trusts, World Wide Fund for Nature, The Conservation Council of Western Australia, Environs Kimberley
- Commercial fisheries and aquaculture – eg. Commonwealth Fisheries Association; Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC); Western Australia's Aquaculture Development Council; Pearl Producers Association, Aquaculture Council of Western Australia
- Recreational fisheries – e.g. Recfish Australia; Recfishwest
- Indigenous organisations – Indigenous Advisory Council, Kimberley Land Council
- Minerals, oil and gas – Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association; Chamber of Minerals and Energy (WA), Woodside, Shell Australia
- Tourism – Tourism Council of WA
- Ports and shipping – Ports WA

Stakeholders involved in the North marine bioregional planning process include:

- Conservation groups – e.g. PEW Charitable Trusts, The Wilderness Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC), Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC), Environment Centre of the NT (ECNT), Reef & Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC)
- Commercial fisheries and aquaculture – e.g. NT Seafood Council, Paspaley Pearling Company P/L, Qld Seafood Industry Council, Northern Prawn Fleet, Pearl Producers Association
- Recreational fisheries – e.g. Recfish Australia, Amateur Fishing Association Northern Territory (AFANT), Sunfish Qld
- Indigenous organisations – Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), Anindilyakwa Land Council, Cape York Land Council (Balkanu), Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
- Minerals, oil and gas – Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, NT Resources Council
- Tourism – Tourism NT, Savannah Guides
- Ports and shipping – Qld Transport, Darwin Port Corporation, Port Corporation of Queensland.
- Other non-government organisations – Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (NGRMG), Gulf Savannah Development Group, Carpentaria Shire Council, Karumba Progress Association, Weipa Chamber of Commerce.

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Stakeholders involved in the East marine bioregional planning process include:

- Commercial fisheries – Commonwealth Fisheries Association, Queensland Seafood Industry Association, Clarence River Fisherman’s Coop, Cairns Marine Aquarium Fish, Pro-Vision, Great Barrier Reef Tuna, CEAS CrabPak, East Coast Crab Fishers Industry Network Inc, Gold Coast Fisherman’s Co-operative, Port Stephens Fisherman’s Co-operative, Newcastle Fisherman’s Co-operative, Ulladulla Fisherman’s Co-operative, Twofold Bay Fisherman’s Co-operative, Southland Fish Supplies, Eden Pelagic Fish Processors, Bermagui Fisherman’s Co-operative, Wallis Lakes Fisherman’s Co-operative, Ballina Fisherman’s Co-op, South West Rocks Fisherman’s Co-op, Urangan Fisheries, Schultz Fisheries, Coffs Harbour Fisherman’s Co-op, NSW Lobster Management Advisory Council, Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee, South East Management Advisory Committee, South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association, NSW Seafood Industry Council, NSW Seafood Industry Advisory Council, Coral Sea Stakeholders Forum, Professional Fisherman’s Association, Sydney Fish Market, individual commercial fishing operators
- Recreational fisheries – Recfish Australia, Sunfish Queensland, CapReef, Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (NSW), Marine Queensland, Australia Fishing and Tackle Association, NSW Marine and Estuarine Recreational and Charter Management Advisory Committee, NSW Recreational Fishing Alliance, EcoFishers NSW, Ecofishers Queensland, Coffs Harbour Deep Sea Fishing Club, Belmont Fishing Club, Narooma Sports and Game Fishing Club, Tuross Head Fishing Club, Australian Underwater Federation, Underwater Skindivers and Fishermen's Association, individual recreational fishers
- Charter fisheries – Queensland Charter Vessels Association, NSW Marine and Estuarine Recreational and Charter Management Advisory Committee, Commercial Vessel Association of NSW , individual charter vessel operators
- Game fisheries – Game Fishing Association of Australia, Queensland Game Fishing Association, Game Fishing Association of NSW, Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association, Townsville Game Fishing Club, Broken Bay Game Fishing Club, Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club, Canberra Game Fishing Club, Australian National Sportsfishing Association, Port Stephens Game Fishing Club, individual game fishing operators
- Indigenous organisations – Queensland South Native Title Services, Cape York Land Council
- Tourism – Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, Whale and Dolphin Watch Australia, Tourism NSW, Tourism Queensland, Sapphire Coast Tourism, Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, Cod Hole and Ribbon Reefs Operators Association
- Ports and shipping – Queensland Ports Association, Shipping Australia, Ports Australia

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- Conservation groups – PEW Charitable Trust, World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Australian Marine Conservation Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Humane Society International, Cairns and Far Northern Environment Centre, Australian Marine Science Association, Sydney Aquarium, Seaworld
  - Other – Norfolk Island Administration, Lord Howe Island MPA Advisory Committee, Bega Valley Shire Business Forum.
3. Stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in all marine planning regions as well as on a national basis for key sectors. Below is a list of stakeholder groups consulted with, the date of consultation and location for 2009-2010.

<b>South-west and North-west Marine Regions (Western Australia to South Australia)</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Location</b>
2/07/09	Halco Tackle	Fremantle
2/07/09	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
7/07/09	WA Department of Primary Industries - Marine Safety	Fremantle
23/07/09	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
29/07/09	Commonwealth Fisheries Association , Wildcatch South Australia, Western Australia Fishing Industry Council	Adelaide
30/07/09	South Australia Department of Environment and Heritage	Adelaide
30/07/09	South Australia Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure	Adelaide
30/07/09	South Australia Native Title Services	Adelaide
3/08/09	WA Department of Fisheries, WA Department of Environment and Conservation, WA Department of Mines and Petroleum	Perth
3/08/09	Shark Bay Aboriginal Corporation, North West Cape and Exmouth Aboriginal Corporation	Carnarvon
7/08/09	Fremantle Port Authority	Fremantle
10/08/09	Esperance Port Authority	Perth
11/08/09	Western Australia Fishing Industry Council	Perth
18/08/09	Recreational Fishing Advisory Council	Hillarys
18/08/09	WA Department of Environment and Conservation	Perth
24/08/09	PEW NW officer	Perth
2/09/09	Broome Department of Environment and Conservation	Broome
3/09/09	Kimberley Land Council	Broome
3/09/09	WA Department of Fisheries	Broome
3/09/09	Broome Port Authority	Broome
3/09/09	Tourism WA	Broome
3/09/09	Environs Kimberley	Broome
3/09/09	North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA )	Broome

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9/09/09	Marine Planning Government Working Group: WA Department of Fisheries, WA Department of Environment and Conservation, WA Department of Mines and Petroleum	Perth
14/09/09	Esperance Game Fishing Association	Perth
15/09/09	AG Inter-Departmental Meeting	Canberra
16/09/09	Commonwealth Fisheries Association	Canberra
17/09/09	APPEA Environment Committee	Canberra
17/09/09	WA Department of Environment and Conservation - Marine Conservation Branch	Perth
21/09/09	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
22/09/09	WA Department Mines and Petroleum, WA Department State Development, WA Department of Transport	Perth
22/09/09	Multi-sector Information Session	Perth
23/09/09	The Wilderness Society	Perth
23/09/09	Recfishwest	Perth
23/09/09	Western Australia Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC)	Perth
24/09/09	WA Department of Fisheries	Broome
25/09/09	Multi-sector Information Session	Broome
25/09/09	Environs Kimberley	Broome
25/09/09	Great Escape Cruises	Broome
25/09/09	North Star Cruises	Broome
2/10/09	WA Ports Authority Association- Environment Group	Perth
13/10/09	Boating Industry Association Western Australia (BIAWA)	Perth
14/10/09	Marine Planning Reserve Authority	Perth
19/10/09	WA Department of Fisheries	Hillarys
20/10/09	NW Commercial Fisheries	Hillarys
21/10/09	Woodside	Perth
21/10/09	WA Department Mines and Petroleum	Perth
22/10/09	WA Department of Fisheries	Hillarys
28/10/09	Western Australia Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC)	Perth
17/11/09	Marine Planning Government Working Group: WA Department of Fisheries, WA Department of Environment and Conservation, WA Department of Mines and Petroleum	Perth
18/11/09	Recfishwest	Perth
19/11/09	Paspaley Pearls	Perth
24/11/09	Western Australia Marine Science Institute (WAMSI )	Fremantle
5/01/10	Recfishwest	Perth
18/01/10	Western Australia Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC)	Hillarys
16/02/2010	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
12/02/2010	Recfishwest	Perth
17/02/2010	Recfish Australia	Exmouth
17/02/2010	Exmouth Game Fishing Club	Exmouth
2/03/2010	Recfishwest	Perth

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24/03/2010	CSIRO	Perth
31/03/2010	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
31/03/2010	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
31/03/2010	WA Department Environment and Conservation	Perth
12/04/2010	WA Department of Fisheries	Hillarys
14/04/2010	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
15/04/2010	Woodside	Perth
27/04/2010	Boating Industry Association Western Australia (BIAWA)	Perth
27/04/2010	Conservation Council WA	Perth
28/04/2010	Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association WA	Perth
28/04/2010	Recfishwest	Perth
29/04/2010	Marine Planning Government Working Group: WA Department of Fisheries, WA Department of Environment and Conservation, WA Department of Mines and Petroleum	Perth
29/04/2010	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
5/05/2010	Western Australia Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC)	Adelaide
11/05/2010	Great Australian Bight Marine Park Steering Committee	Adelaide
11/05/2010	Conservation Council	Adelaide
12/05/2010	Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia (PIRSA)	Adelaide
12/05/2010	South Australia Department of Environment and Heritage	Adelaide
12/05/2010	Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia (PIRSA)	Perth
14/05/2010	PEW Trusts	Canberra
20/05/2010	Department Resources Energy and Tourism	Canberra
20/05/2010	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Perth
3/06/2010	Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association – Environment Committee	Perth
3/06/2010	WA Department of Fisheries	Perth
18/06/2010	Shell Australia	Perth



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<b>North Marine Region</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Location</b>
16/02/2009	Qld Dept of Premier and Cabinet	Brisbane
16/02/2009	Queensland South Native Title Services	Brisbane
16/02/2009	CSIRO	Brisbane
17/02/2009	Maritime Safety Queensland	Brisbane
17/02/2009	Queensland Transport	Brisbane
17/02/2009	Queensland EPA	Brisbane
18/02/2009	Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry	Brisbane
18/02/2009	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	Brisbane
19/02/2009	Bureau of Rural Sciences	Brisbane
14/04/2009	Pew Environmental Group	Canberra
03/08/2009	National Seafood Industry Alliance	Canberra
04/08/2009	AFMA	Canberra
10/09/2009	QPI&F (now DEEDI)	Canberra
10/09/2009	Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)	Brisbane
11/09/2009	QPI&F (now DEEDI)	Brisbane
11/09/2009	QLD Treasury and Premiers	Brisbane
11/09/2009	Sunfish	Brisbane
15/09/2009	Commonwealth Fisheries Association	Canberra
15/09/2009	AG Inter-Departmental Meeting	Canberra
17/09/2009	APPEA	Canberra
21/09/2010	APPEA	Canberra
21/09/2009	NT Fisheries	Darwin
21/09/2009	NT Government Meeting	Darwin
22/09/2009	Multi Stakeholder meeting	Darwin
22/09/2009	AFANT	Darwin
22/09/2009	NT Seafood Council	Darwin
23/09/2009	AFMA	Canberra
24/09/2009	Environment Centre & AMCS	Darwin
25/09/2009	NORMAC	Brisbane
25/09/2009	Queensland Government IDC	Brisbane
25/09/2009	QSIA	Brisbane
25/09/2009	DERM	Brisbane
25/09/2009	Sunfish	Brisbane
27/09/2009	Gulf Finfish Review Public Meeting	Cairns
28/09/2009	Gulf of Carpentaria Ghost Nets Programme	Karumba
29/09/2009	Gulf of Carpentaria Commercial Fisherman's Association	Karumba
1/10/2009	Reef & Rainforest Research Centre Ltd	Cairns
1/10/2009	Gulf Finfish Review Public Meeting	Weipa
2/10/2009	Weipa Chamber of Commerce	Weipa

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2/10/2009	Commercial fishing operators	Weipa
2/10/2009	CSIRO	Cairns
5-6/10/2009	Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Carpentaria Land Council, Aboriginal Corporation & Cape York Land Council (Balkanu)	Darwin
9/10/2009	Northern Land Council	Darwin
12/10/2009	Tiwi Land Council	Darwin
26-28/10/2009	Northern Gulf Resource Management Group	Mareeba
23/10/2009	NT Seafood Council	Teleconference
28/10/2009	APPEA	Canberra
3-4/11/2009	Northern Australian Fisheries Committee	Darwin
10/12/2009	NT Seafood Council	Darwin
14/01/2010	Gulf of Carpentaria Commercial Fishermen Association	Karumba
8/02/2010	DERM	Canberra
23/02/2010	Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	Darwin
25/02/2010	NAILSMA & other various Indigenous community organisations	Darwin
9/03/2010	Gulf Savannah Development	Canberra
25/03/2010	Australia Marine Conservation Society and Environment Centre of the Northern Territory	Darwin
29/03/2010	Northern Territory Seafood Council	Darwin
29/03/2010	Department of Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism, and Arts & Sport - (NRETAS)	Darwin
30/03/2010	Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources	Darwin
31/03/2010	Fisheries Queensland, DEEDI	Brisbane
1/04/2010	DERM	Brisbane
28/04/2010	Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources	Darwin
29/04/2010	Environment Centre NT	Darwin
30/04/2010	Queensland Seafood industry Association (QSIA)	Brisbane
30/04/2010	DEEDI	Brisbane
25/05/2010	Gulf Savannah Development	Burketown
26/05/2010	Carpentaria Shire Council	Normanton
28/05/2010	Karumba Progress Association	Karumba
24-27/05/2010	Carpentaria Ghost Nets Program Summit – Attended on and off through out the Summit	Karumba

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<b>East Marine Region</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Location</b>
27-30/1/2009	NSW Government agencies	Sydney and Port Stephens
16/2/2009	Queensland Government agencies	Brisbane
	CSIRO	Brisbane
	Queensland South Native Title Services	Brisbane
17/2/2009	Queensland Government agencies	Brisbane
18/2/2009	Queensland Government agencies	Brisbane
19/2/2009	National Marine Science Centre	Coffs Harbour
20/2/2009	Department of Environment and Climate Change - Solitary Islands Marine Park	Coffs Harbour
2/6/2009	Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association	Cairns
	Private company – marine sector	Cairns
3/6/2009	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	Cairns
	Cairns and Far Northern Environment Centre (CAFNEC)	Cairns
	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)	Cairns
	Cairns Marine Aquarium Fish	Cairns
4/6/2009	Sunfish Queensland	Brisbane
	Queensland Government agencies	Brisbane
	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Brisbane
	Ports Corporation Queensland (PCQ)	Brisbane
5/6/2009	Marine Queensland	Brisbane
	Queensland Game Fishing Association	Brisbane
	Private companies in marine sector	Brisbane
	Pepperell Research	Brisbane
15-16/6/2009	Regional Assessment Workshop	Cairns
	Queensland Seafood Industry Association	
	Cairns Marine Aquarium Fish	
	CapReef	
	Recfish Australia	
	Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association	
	Queensland Game Fishing Association	
	Game Fishing Association of Australia	
	Queensland Charter Vessels Association	
	Australian Fishing Trade Association	
	Mitchell's Marine	
	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	
	World Wildlife Fund for Nature	
	The Pew Charitable Trusts	
	Cairns and Far North Environment Centre	
	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	
	Queensland Ports Association	

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	Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators	
	Whale and Dolphin Watch Australia	
	Queensland Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries	
	Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management	
	James Cook University	
	Pepperell Research	
	CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research	
	Australian Institute for Marine Science	
	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	
18-19/6/2009	Regional Assessment Workshop	Cronulla
	Clarence River Fisherman's Coop	
	Seafood Industry Advisory Council	
	Fishing representative – Coffs Harbour	
	Game Fishing Association of Australia	
	Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (NSW)	
	Australian Fishing Trade Association	
	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	
	World Wildlife Fund for Nature	
	Australian Marine Conservation Society	
	Australian Conservation Foundation	
	Whale and Dolphin Watch Australia	
	NSW Fisheries	
	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change	
	Norfolk Island Administration	
	CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research	
	Southern Cross University	
	University of Newcastle	
	Nature Conservation Council of NSW	
	Calypso Fishing Adventures	
	Humane Society International	
28/6/2009	Lord Howe Island Marine Protected Area Steering Committee	Lord Howe Island
29/6/2009	Lord Howe Island Marine Protected Area Advisory Committee	Lord Howe Island
1/7/2009	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change	Sydney
28-29/7/2009	Regional Assessment Workshop	Brisbane
	Queensland Seafood Industry Association	
	Seafood Industry Advisory Council of New South Wales	
	Clarence River Fisherman's Coop	
	Sunfish	
	Recfish Australia	
	Queensland Game Fishing Association	

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	Queensland Charter Vessels Association	
	Whale and Dolphin Watch Australia	
	Queensland Government agencies	
	Game Fishing Association of Australia	
	Incredible Charters	
	Queensland Ports Association	
	CSIRO Cleveland	
	Australian Marine Conservation Society	
	NSW Department of Primary Industry	
	Gold Coast Whale Watching Association	
	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	
14/9/2009	Queensland Game Fishing Association Australia	Townsville
15/9/2009	Cape York Land Council	Cairns
	Cairns Marine Aquarium Fish	Cairns
	Cairns and Far Northern Environment Centre (CAFNEC)	Cairns
16/9/2009	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Cairns
	Seafresh Seafoods	Cairns
	Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association	Cairns
	Network for Sustainable Fishing	Port Douglas
21/9/2009	The PEW Environment Group	Brisbane
24/9/2009	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Clayfield
25/9/2009	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Brisbane
	Recreational and Commercial Fishers (Chaired by Yvette D' Ath Member for Petrie)	Redcliff
28/9/2009	Game Fishing Association Australia	Brisbane
29/9/2009	Deep water line fisher, Coral Sea	Brisbane
30/9/2009	NSW Fisheries	Cronulla
	Department of Energy and Climate Change	Hurstville
	Long line operator east coast	Sydney
	Sydney Fish Market GM	Sydney
1/10/2009	The PEW Environment Group, WWF, Australian Conservation Foundation, Nature Conservation Council	Sydney
7/10/2009	AMCS	Brisbane
	The PEW Environment Group, WWF, Australian Conservation Foundation	Hobart, Canberra, Sydney
13/10/2009	Upscale Seafoods	Coffs Harbour
	NSW Solitary Islands Marine Park	Coffs Harbour
	Professional Fisherman's Association	Coffs Harbour
14/10/2009	Sydney Aquarium	Sydney
15/10/2009	Norfolk Island Attorney Generals Department	Norfolk Island
	Norfolk Island Fishers Association	Norfolk Island
	Eco Norfolk	Norfolk Island

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16/10/2009	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Brisbane
20/10/2009	Marine and Estuarine Recreation and Charter Management Advisory Committee	Cronulla
21/10/2009	Commonwealth Fisheries Association	Ulladulla
	Ulladulla Fishermans Co-Operative	Ulladulla
26/10/2009	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECCW)	Canberra
2/11/2009	Long line operator	Mooloolaba
3/11/2009	Queensland Charter Vessel Association	Gold Coast
5/11/2009	De Brett Seafoods	Mooloolaba
15/11/2009	Sunfish Queensland	Brisbane
	Queensland Game Fishers Association	Brisbane
	CapReef	Brisbane
	Australian Underwater Federation Queensland	Brisbane
16/11/2009	Commercial Fisher	Sydney
	NSW Fisheries Officer	Sydney
	Ocean Trap and Line Management Advisory Committee	Sydney
2/12/2009	Sydney Aquarium	Sydney
	Australian National Sportsfishing Association	Sydney
	Sydney Catchment Management Authority	Sydney
	Seagulls Fishing Club Tweed Heads	Sydney
	Recreational Fisher	Sydney
	Canberra Game Fishing Club	Sydney
	NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing	Sydney
11/12/2009	Sydney Fish Markets	Sydney
	NSW Marine Park Advisory Council	Sydney
17/12/2009	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Brisbane
18/12/2009	Queensland Charter Vessel Association	Gold Coast
	General Manager, Sea World	Gold Coast
18/1/2010	Gold Coast Fisherman's Co-op	Gold Coast
	Queensland Charter Vessel Association	Gold Coast
28/1/2010	Charter Boat Operator	Cairns
	Cairns and Far Northern Environment Centre (CAFNEC)	Cairns
	Marine Queensland	Cairns
	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)	Cairns
29/1/2010	Floreat Reef Charters	Cairns
	Great Barrier Reef Tuna	Cairns
	Cairns Marine Aquarium Fish	Cairns
24/2/2010	Ecofishers Qld	Brisbane
25/2/2010	Sunfish Qld	Brisbane
	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Brisbane
	Queensland Fisheries	Brisbane

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26/2/2010	Sydney Fish Market	Sydney
4/3/2010	Department of Defence	Canberra
	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	Canberra
24/3/2010	Commercial and Recreational Fishers	Cairns
25/3/2010	Cairns Marine Aquarium Fish	Cairns
	Great Barrier Reef Tuna	Cairns
26/3/2010	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Brisbane
30/3/2010	Sunfish Queensland	Brisbane
31/3/2010	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Brisbane
	Marine Queensland	Brisbane
	RecFish Australia	Brisbane
	Queensland Game Fishing Association	Brisbane
	3 Commercial Fishers	Mooloolaba
1/4/2010	Commercial Fisher	Sydney
	WWF Australia	Sydney
	3 Recreational Fishers	Sydney
	Game Fishing Association of Australia	Sydney
	Ports Australia	Sydney
8/4/2010	1 Recreational Fisher and 7 Charter Operators	Gold Coast
	Gold Coast Fisherman's Co-op	Gold Coast
9/4/2010	East Coast Crab Fishers Industry Network Inc	Caloundra
	CEAS CrabPak	Caloundra
13/4/2010	8 Charter and Recreational Fishers	Tweed Heads
19/4/2010	Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-op	Coffs Harbour
20/4/2010	7 Commercial Fishers	Nelson Bay
	Group of 8 from Recreational Tackle Shop	Salamander Bay
	Newcastle Fisherman's Co-op	Newcastle
21/4/2010	Shipping Australia	Sydney
	Commercial Fisher	Sydney
	Australian Fishing and Tackle Association (AFTA)	Sydney
	Broken Bay Game Fishing Club	Sydney
22/4/2010	Ulladulla Fisherman's Co-op	Ulladulla
	Commercial Fisher	Ulladulla
23/4/2010	The PEW Environment Group	Sydney
	Lobster Management Advisory Council	Sydney
28/4/2010	Lord Howe Island Marine Protected Area Advisory Committee	Lord Howe Island
	Australian Conservation Foundation	Melbourne
	South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA)	Melbourne
29/4/2010	South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC)	Melbourne
4/5/2010	Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee	Sydney
4/5/2010	Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club	Merimbula
6/5/2010	Sapphire Coast Tourism	Eden

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	Southland Fish Supplies	Eden
	Bermagui Fisherman's Co-op	Bermagui
	Recreational and Commercial Fishers	Bermagui
7/5/2010	Merimbula Charters	Merimbula
13/5/2010	NSW Seafood Industry Advisory Council (SIAC)	Sydney
	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	Sydney
19/5/2010	Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)	Canberra
20/5/2010	Coral Sea Stakeholders Forum	Canberra
26/5/2010	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	Canberra
27/5/2010	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	Tuross Head
28/5/2010	Narooma Sports and Game Fishing Club	Narooma
	Bega Valley Shire Business Forum	Bermagui
7/6/2010	NSW Government	Port Stephens
	Port Stephens Game Fishing Club	Port Stephens
8/6/2010	Commercial Fisher	Port Stephens
	Recreational and Commercial Fishers	Belmont
9/6/2010	Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF)	Sydney
15/6/2010	Commercial Fishers	Tin Can Bay
	Shultz and Urangan Fisheries	Hervey Bay
16/6/2010	Ecofishers NSW	Ballina
17/6/2010	Clarence River Fisherman's Co-op	Clarence River
18/6/2010	Coffs Harbour Deep Sea Club	Coffs Harbour
	South West Rocks Country Club	South West Rocks
19/6/2010	Wallis Lake Co-op	Foster/Tuncurry



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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	57
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Whales – Special Envoy		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator FISHER asked:**

1. When is Sandy Hollway's contract due for renewal?
2. Is it or has it been renewed?
3. Please provide details of his latest contract
4. Please provide full details of his travel arrangements over the last 12 months, including cost of airfares, accommodation and hotels stayed
5. What funding has been allocated towards the Whaling Envoy?
  - a. What specifically has the Whaling Envoy achieved?
  - b. Has funding been allocated for the Whaling Envoy to attend the next meeting of the International Whaling Commission in June?
6. If yes, what specifically will the Whaling Envoy aim to achieve?
7. If no, then why not?

**Answers:**

1. The Special Envoy for Whale Conservation Mr Sandy Hollway's contract expired on 30 June 2010.
2. The Commonwealth (represented by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, DEWHA) first signed a contract with Mr Hollway on 5 October 2008. This contract terminated on 19 March 2009. The Commonwealth (represented by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DFAT) signed a new service contract with Mr Hollway on 20 March 2009. This contract terminated on 30 June 2009. Mr Smith and Mr Garrett decided on 26 May that Hollway's contract should be extended to 30 September 2009. DFAT signed a further extension to the contract on 25 September 2009 until 31 December 2009. On 24 December, Mr Crean, acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs, agreed to further extend Mr Hollway's contract to 30 June 2010. The Government is reviewing the role of the Special Envoy, if any, in the context of deciding on the next steps in its anti-whaling strategy.

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3. Mr Hollway's contract is managed by DFAT and co-funded by DEWHA.

Mr Hollway received a fee of \$1800 per full day (exclusive of GST) plus superannuation contributions of 9% (the rate set under superannuation legislation). The contract provided for the Commonwealth to pay Mr Hollway's expenses when delivering services under the contract. Between 20 March 2008 and 31 December 2009 Mr Hollway's contract provided for these expenses to be paid directly by the Commonwealth (such as accommodation) or reimbursed to Mr Hollway when he invoiced the Commonwealth and presented receipts. Since 1 January 2010 Mr Hollway has received a per diem travel allowance at the same rate as provided to Senior Executive Service officers of DFAT. Mr Hollway's contract expired on 30 June 2010.

4. As at 30 May 2010, the total cost of Mr Hollway's airfares for the 2009-10 financial year was \$79,032.46. As at 30 May 2010 the total cost of his accommodation for the 2009-10 financial year was \$12,339.84. These figures do not include Mr Hollway's recent trip to Europe and Morocco from 5-28 June 2010, as the costs of this trip have not yet been acquitted.

Please see **Attachment A** for a list of hotels in which Mr Hollway has stayed during the 2009-10 financial year.

5. From 5 October 2008 to 30 May 2010, a total of \$623,096.18 had been spent supporting the activities of the Special Envoy, including \$226,012.50 in professional fees for Mr Hollway (including GST and superannuation), \$177,652.58 in travel costs for Mr Hollway and \$219,431.10 in travel costs for accompanying officers from DEWHA and DFAT.
- a. Mr Hollway's activities have supported efforts to achieve Australia's objectives in International Whaling Commission (IWC) negotiations. Through his high-level consultations with Japan and other important international parties, Mr Hollway has advocated Australia's position and has informed the Australian Government of other parties' positions.
  - b. Mr Hollway attended the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the IWC (IWC62) in Agadir in June. Mr Hollway returned from IWC62 on 29 June 2010, and DFAT has not yet received an invoice. Costs will be paid as per his contract.
6. The inclusion of Mr Hollway on Australia's delegation to IWC62 contributed to ensuring a wide breadth of relevant expertise was present at the meeting and complemented ministerial and officials-level engagement.
7. Not applicable.

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**Attachment A**

<b>City</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Hotel</b>
Wellington, New Zealand	30-31 July 2009	The Bolton Hotel
Berlin, Germany	27-28 August 2009	The Regent Berlin
Reykjavik, Iceland	28-29 August 2009	Radisson SAS Saga Hotel
Washington DC, USA	29 August – 1 September 2009	Willard Intercontinental Hotel
Mexico City, Mexico	1-2 September 2009	Camino Real, Polanco Mexico
New York, USA	20-24 November 2009	The Alex Hotel
Washington DC, USA	4-6 December 2009	The Edgewater
Santiago, Chile	3-17 October 2009	Santiago Park Plaza
Adelaide, Australia	19-20 January 2010	The Intercontinental Hotel
Hawaii, USA	29-31 January 2010	Hyatt Hotel
Canberra, Australia	1-2 February 2010	Hotel Realm
Tampa, USA	28 February – 5 March 2010	Tradewinds Island Resorts on St Pete Beach
Washington DC, USA	12-15 April 2010	Grand Hyatt Hotel
London, UK	6-7 June and 10-13 June 2010	The Royal Horseguards Hotel
Berlin, Germany	7-8 June 2010	Accor Hotel
Brussels, Belgium	8-9 June 2010	Sofitel Brussels Europe
Paris, France	9-10 June 2010	Hotel Le Marquis
Madrid, Spain	13-14 June 2010	AC Recoletos
Casablanca, Morocco	14-15 June 2010	Atlas Airport Hotel
Agadir, Morocco	15-26 June 2010	Sofitel Agadir Royal Bay Resort

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	58
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Whales – Legal action		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator FISHER asked:**

1. Why has no funding been specifically allocated in the Budget papers towards the Government's Whaling Policies?
2. Does the Department believe it has gathered all the evidence it needs to mount the promised legal action against Japan in the ICJ?
3. If no, then why wasn't a vessel sent to the Southern Ocean this year to gather more evidence? If yes, then why hasn't the Department launched the promised court action?
4. What funding has been allocated?
5. In light of this, how does the Department intend to enforce Australian law banning the slaughter of whales in the Australian Whale Sanctuary?

**Answers:**

1. While the Australian Government has ensured that adequate funds will be available for the conduct of the case, it would not be appropriate to detail the funds committed or to disclose other related details of the case or the Government's strategy.
2. It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment on the amount or nature of the evidence it has gathered or to disclose other related details of the case or the Government's strategy.
3. As above.
4. As answer 1.
5. Japan issues permits for its whaling vessels to kill whales in the Southern Ocean, including in Australia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) adjacent to Australia's Antarctic Territory (AAT) purportedly under Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

It is an offence under Australian law to aid or abet the killing of a whale in the Australian Whale Sanctuary, which includes Australia's EEZ off Antarctica.

Jurisdiction in Antarctica is not universally recognised, including by Japan. Consistent with the established practice of States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, Australia only enforces its laws in the AAT against Australian nationals. This practice is central to the cooperative system that underpins the conservation of Antarctica.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	59
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Whaling – Court of Action		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. What has been budgeted, and over which financial years, for the announced legal action in the International Court of Justice against Japanese whaling?
2. What are the expected total costs?
3. When does the Government expect this case to be heard before the International Court of Justice?

**Answers:**

1. While the Australian Government has ensured that adequate funds will be available for the conduct of the case, it would not be appropriate to detail the funds committed or to disclose other related details of the case or the Government's strategy.
2. As above.
3. The timetable for proceedings is yet to be set by the International Court of Justice.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	60
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Coral Sea		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Marine Queensland (the 'peak body' representing the leisure and light commercial marine industry in Qld) released a report attempting to discredit the science behind Minister Garrett's declaration of the Coral Sea Conservation Zone (CSCZ). The report can be found at: <http://www.marineqld.com.au/coral-sea-literature>.

Can the Department please outline any response made to this report?

**Answer:**

On 8 February 2010 the Coral Sea Access Alliance, a division of Marine Queensland, sent a copy of the report referred to by Senator Siewert to the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts. The letter and report were acknowledged by the Department in a letter dated 7 April 2010.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	61
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Dugongs		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

What action is the Federal Government taking to work with Indigenous communities on the taking of dugong in northern Australia?

**Answer:**

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is working with Indigenous communities on a range of initiatives and programs to help protect and conserve dugongs and their habitats in Australia, including, but not limited to:

- National Partnership Approach for the Sustainable Harvest of Turtle and Dugong;
- Saltwater People Network supported through the Caring for our Country program and administered by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance;
- development of a Dugong Wildlife Conservation Plan;
- development of Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Traditional Owners, supported by the Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program; and
- development of Torres Strait community-based management plans to manage turtles and dugongs, led by the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

In response to concerns about illegal hunting and with the support from Traditional Owners, the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts recently approved a new Indigenous Community Compliance position within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to work in collaboration with Indigenous communities in the Cairns and Cape York region.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	62
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Marine Turtle Recovery Plan		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

1. Has the '*Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia*' (Commonwealth 2003), that provides the major strategic framework for the recovery of marine turtle populations in Australia, been signed off by all states and territories?
2. Has the National Marine Turtle Recovery Plan and its programs and actions been reviewed or audited since its development?
3. How has the research related to the national recovery priorities, under the National Marine Turtle Recovery Plan through the National Turtle Recovery Group?
4. Who is co-ordinating this research?

**Answers:**

1. As required under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts consulted with ministers of each state and the Northern Territory in which the species occurs and took into account their views in making the National Marine Turtle Recovery Plan.
2. The review of the National Marine Turtle Recovery Plan has commenced and a revised Recovery Plan and draft Issues Paper have been released for public comment. Comments from the public consultation period are being reviewed with the assistance of the National Turtle Recovery Group and the revised Recovery Plan and draft Issues Paper are being re-drafted to comprehensively address the comments.
3. During the review of the Recovery Plan, research projects undertaken as part of the implementation of the Plan were assessed to determine if recovery actions identified by the National Turtle Recovery Group were met. The outcomes of this review are addressed in the revised Recovery Plan and draft Issues Paper.



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4. The Department works with a range of government agencies and organisations to direct marine turtle conservation activities and coordinate action to conduct research and monitoring to implement the National Marine Turtle Recovery Plan. The Department has run programs that invite researchers and interested stakeholders to apply for funding to undertake works directly related Recovery Plan priorities and has also commissioned individual projects to respond to specific recovery actions. Other programs that are currently contributing to marine species recovery actions include Caring for Our Country, Working on Country and Indigenous Protected Areas. These programs are further complemented by other federal and state government programs which all contribute to protected species management and conservation.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	63
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Marine Turtle Recovery Plan – Indigenous led programs		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

1. How much money has been spent on Indigenous-led programs?
2. Is a specific project outcome of Indigenous-led programs to provide data on Indigenous harvest on threatened sea turtle populations in Australia?
3. Has any data on Indigenous harvest on threatened sea turtle populations in Australia been developed?

**Answers:**

1. Since its commencement in 2008, the Australian Government Working on Country program has allocated funding of \$88.45 million to seventeen Indigenous organisations engaged in sea management activities. Of these, ten are located in the Northern Territory, seven in Queensland (including the Torres Strait) and four in north-western Australia. This funding employs over 240 full-time equivalent Indigenous rangers. Turtle-related activities are one component of the general operations of these ranger organisations and can include recording turtle observations, feral pig control at nesting sites, tagging, measuring, weighing, DNA sampling, fitting transmitters and recording nest sites.

Through Caring for our Country, the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is funding the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance \$2.4 million over four years to implement the Saltwater People Network Project. This project will bring Indigenous communities and ranger organisations together with non-Indigenous experts to better manage remote coastal and aquatic environments across northern Australia (including turtle management).

Since 2003, approximately \$6.3 million has been provided to Northern Territory organisations to undertake projects which involve a significant proportion of marine turtle management activities across northern Australia. Importantly the projects have assisted coastal Indigenous communities across northern Australia in forging collaborative relationships and alliances to record, manage and protect marine turtle (and dugong) populations and feeding grounds.

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2. There is no specific outcome from any of the above investment to provide data to the Australian Government on Indigenous harvest of sea turtles. However, some programs do collect data on Indigenous harvest which is used by communities to manage their activities.
3. Some Indigenous communities monitor and record data on Indigenous harvest. However, the usability of these datasets at national scale is limited. Accordingly, the focus of programs has been on developing standardised monitoring protocols and building capacity of Indigenous communities to collect accurate and reliable data in a cost-effective manner that is appropriate to the scale of management.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	64
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Marine Turtle Recovery Plan – National Turtle Recovery Group		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

1. What is the role of the National Turtle Recovery Group?
2. How often has the National Turtle Recovery Group met?
3. How much money has been spent by DEWHA on turtle research since 2003?
4. How much money has been allocated through the National Turtle Recovery Group to address national turtle recovery priorities?
5. How many of the funded projects were assessed through the Recovery Group, or have been subject to technical peer review?

**Answers:**

1. The National Turtle Recovery Group was established in 2004 to advise the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts on the implementation of the Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia through the Department of the Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

The Terms of Reference of the National Turtle Recovery Group include to:

- advise on:
    - ~ information about marine turtles relevant to the implementation of the Recovery Plan;
    - ~ priorities for implementation of the Recovery Plan;
    - ~ the review of the Recovery Plan; and
  - assist with implementation of the Recovery Plan by:
    - ~ actively participating, where possible, in the implementation of the Recovery Plan;
    - ~ promoting the Recovery Plan; and
    - ~ internally reviewing the effectiveness of the National Turtle Recovery Group.
2. The National Turtle Recovery Group has met five times since its establishment in 2004.

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3. DEWHA has administered a range of programs to provide funding for marine turtle conservation and management, including turtle research projects, primarily through the Natural Heritage Trust and Caring for our Country. Since 2003, approximately \$3.5 million has been directed to undertake research and recovery actions that directly relate to priority recovery actions listed in the National Marine Turtle Recovery Plan.
4. None. The role of the National Turtle Recovery Group is to provide advice to identify priority recovery actions for implementation of the National Marine Turtle Recovery Plan. Allocation of funding to address national turtle recovery priorities occurs through Departmental programs.
5. During the review of the National Marine Turtle Recovery Plan, research and recovery actions undertaken as part of the implementation of the Plan are assessed by the National Turtle Recovery Group against actions identified in the Plan. In addition, the results and findings of many of the research projects funded by the Department are published in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	65
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Marine Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Southern Bluefin Tuna		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

1. When will Minister Garrett be making his decision on whether or not to grant approval for the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery as an ecologically sustainable Wildlife Trade Operation under the EPBC Act?
2. What is the information base the Minister is using to make his decision?

**Answers:**

1. The Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts was required to make a decision regarding ongoing export approval for the Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) Fishery by 20 August 2010 in advance of the current export approval expiring on 25 August 2010. As this decision falls due during caretaker period, the delegate of the Minister will grant a short term extension of the export approval until late October 2010 to allow sufficient time for a decision to be made by the incoming Environment minister and to coincide with the due date for the decision on whether to include SBT as a listed species under the EPBC Act (currently required by 21 October 2010).
2. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) uses information received from the fishery management agency as well as annual reports, the latest available scientific information, and public comment, to inform the assessment.

Submissions from the fisheries management agencies are assessed against the Australian Government's *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. These Guidelines require that a fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over fishing and that fishing operations should be managed in a manner that does not threaten bycatch species, avoids mortality of or injury to protected species and which minimises the impact on the ecosystem generally.

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The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority provided a joint submission for reassessment and reaccreditation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) Fishery to DEWHA in March 2010. The joint submission was available for public comment on DEWHA's website until 22 April 2010. DEWHA advised those subscribed to the register of interested parties that the SBT Fishery assessment submission was available. Eight public comments were received, from the science, environmental Non-Government Organisation, Government and fishing industry communities. Public comments will be taken into account as part of the assessment process and the Minister's decisions.

The issues considered as part of the assessment will be contained in an assessment, which will be published on DEWHA's website following the Minister's decision.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	66
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Information Management Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	NERP - reef and Torres Strait administration		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	96 (26/5/10)		

**Senator IAN MACDONALD asked:**

**Mr Sullivan**—That relates to reef in the Torres Strait. That is locked away. Also, in terms of the allocation from the forward years, there is a commitment that the reef and Torres Strait, in terms of administration, will be fit for purpose. That applies across all of the program in terms of the hub investments. They will be fit for purpose. There is a tender currently under way for the administration of that component of the program.

...

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Is there a clause in the tender that says it has to be North Queensland based?

**Mr Sullivan**—I will have to check on that and take it on notice, because I want to be clear about that. The clear public commitment of the minister and the government has been that that will be delivered from North Queensland. I imagine it is in the tender, but I will take that on notice.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—That is probably good enough, but do take it on notice. Someone in North Queensland will get to administer that \$7 million a year over the next four years?

**Mr Sullivan**—Yes.

**Answer:**

The Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait (GBRTS) Administrator tender documentation specifies in its Conditions of Participation (Part A Section A, Clause 6.2 iv) that the administrator must have a presence in northern Queensland sufficient to fulfil the tasks of the administrator. The exact words of Clause 6.2 iv are as follows:

“The Tenderer must have a local presence to provide local support to GBRTS Hub activities for the duration of the contract. The nature of GBRTS Hub activities requires that the Tenderer must have sufficient personnel based in northern Queensland, in an appropriate location to fulfil their administration responsibilities. The Department anticipates that this would include a manager with authority to act autonomously on behalf of the Tenderer, and other project specific personnel needed to engage with researchers and other stakeholders to deliver the appropriate Services.”



**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

<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	67
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Information Management Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	CERF/NERP funding components		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	98-99 (26/5/10)		

**Senator IAN MACDONALD asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Previously the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre administered \$40 million for both marine and rainforest research. Is that—

**Mr Sullivan**—Approximately \$40 million. It is a little bit less than that. I can take that on notice and give you the exact details.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—What you are saying is that the marine part of it is now \$28 million over four years, and \$750,000 is on account of the rainforest element?

...

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—How much is in that terrestrial section as opposed to the marine, reef and Torres Strait?

**Mr Sullivan**—I do not have that figure in front of me. I thought we ran through this at the last estimates.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—There is \$28 million for—

**Mr Sullivan**—And the remainder is for biodiversity plus Northern Australia. There is a minor component—I think it is \$2 million a year—but again I will take that on notice.

...

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—I am sorry, \$28 million for the marine and Torres Strait. Of the other \$52 million, that is to be divided somewhere for figures you do not yet have—

**Mr Sullivan**—No, I do have them. As I said, I apologise, I do recall giving them at the last estimates in terms of the breakdown of funding.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—But it is divided between Northern Australia and then biodiversity Australia-wide?

**Mr Sullivan**—Yes. There is a small element left in reserve, which is for emerging priorities as they arise on a year-to-year basis.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Could you give me the Northern Australia component?

...

**Mr Sullivan**—it is approximately \$2 million a year, I think.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—So, that is a total of \$8 million over four years.

**Mr Sullivan**—If you are doing the maths in terms of what is left then, again, I need to recheck those.

**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

**Answers:**

Reef and Rainforest Research Centre

Over the period of the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF) contract, before commencement of the transition phase between the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) program and the National Environmental Research Program (NERP), the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) will have administered \$37,235,998. This includes \$2,742,773 of funding provided in 2005-06 to assist in transition from the CRC Reef (the formal name is the CRC Reef Research Centre) and CRC Rainforest (the formal name is Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management) to MTSRF.

Funding for terrestrial issues

At the time of the May 2010 Budget Estimates assessment of NERP funding proposals had not concluded. The amount of funding for terrestrial issues will depend on the value of the proposals approved by the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts. The Minister has previously announced that the outcome of the competitive process is expected to be announced at the end of July 2010.

Northern Australia component

Correction, no allocation of the Northern Australia component had been made at the time of the May 2010 Budget Estimates. Assessment of NERP funding proposals had not concluded at that time. The amount of funding for terrestrial issues will depend on the value of the proposals approved by the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts. The Minister has previously announced that the outcome of the competitive process is expected to be announced at the end of July 2010.

**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

<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	68
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Information Management Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	National Plan for Environmental Information		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator FISHER asked:**

1. What is the “National Plan for Environmental Information”?
2. What is the money for?
3. How is this Program different from the “National Environmental Research Program”?

**Answers:**

1. The National Plan for Environmental Information (NPEI) will coordinate and prioritise the way the Australian Government collects, manages and uses environmental information. The NPEI is being jointly developed by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the Bureau of Meteorology.
2. Funding for the NPEI will support:
  - establishment of the Bureau of Meteorology as the Australian Government authority for environmental information;
  - formalisation of arrangements to coordinate priorities and activities across government;
  - review of existing information resources and environmental information activity; and
  - initiating the building of priority national environmental datasets and the infrastructure to deliver them.
3. The National Environmental Research Program is focused on improving research underpinning the understanding, management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. By contrast, the NPEI is focused on improving the use of environmental data holdings to support decisions about the management of these natural assets.

**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

<b>Outcome:</b>	1	<b>Question No:</b>	94
<b>Program:</b>	1.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Approvals and Wildlife Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	North-South Pipeline		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. Has any water been extracted through the North-South Pipeline? If so, how much?
2. What audits of water savings have been provided by the Victorian Government to justify any extractions taken?

**Answers:**

1. Yes. The Victorian government provided advice that a total of 16.7 GL of water has been pumped down the North South Pipeline. The total volume of water extracted to the Pipeline during 2009-10 will be formally reported in the Sugarloaf Annual Report 2010.
2. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has received audited advice relating to sources of water to be extracted to the pipeline during the interim period of operation (2009-2010).

Audits/independent advice received include:

- Cardno (Qld) Pty Ltd, NORTHERN VICTORIA IRRIGATION RENEWAL PROJECT STAGE 1 –WATER SAVINGS AUDIT REPORT, October 2009;
- Cardno (Qld) Pty Ltd, CENTRAL GOULBURN AREAS 1-4 AND SHEPPARTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS -WATER SAVING, November 2009;
- DG Consulting (Aus) Pty Ltd Independent advice regarding Water Savings from the Commissioning Water 1 December 2009;
- DG Consulting (Aus) Pty Ltd Independent advice regarding Water Savings from the Goulburn Water Quality Reserve 14 December 2009; and
- DG Consulting (Aus) Pty Ltd Independent advice regarding Water Savings from the Modernisation Projects, 21 December 2009.

Melbourne Water has published information supporting this advice on their public website at

[http://www.sugarloafpipeline.com.au/content/news\\_and\\_information/latest\\_news.asp#News147](http://www.sugarloafpipeline.com.au/content/news_and_information/latest_news.asp#News147).