

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts

Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Environment and Heritage

National Oceans Office

Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

Outcome 1,

Question: 62

Division: National Oceans Office

Topic: Future Funding

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA 13

Senator Bolkus asked:

The decision has been taken in the department to allocate \$3.5 million in 2002-03. I would like to know for what purpose. What have you actually identified will be funded by that \$3.5 million? Maybe you would like to take that on notice.

Answer:

The \$3.5 million in 2002-03 referred to in your question does not relate to the National Oceans Office, but relates to the Coast and Clean Seas, Ocean Environment Protection, and Marine Resource Management programs administered by Environment Australia.

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Question: 63

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Topic: Funding

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA 15

Senator Bolkus asked:

How much of that \$30 million over three years have you spent so far? So you have spent just over \$5 million? Can you on notice provide for us a breakdown of that expenditure?

Answer:

The breakdown of National Oceans Office expenditure in terms of the outputs in the 2000-01 PBS from budget allocation in July 1999 to January 2001 is as follows.

A total of \$ 0.63m has been spent on Policy Development, Advice & Accountability (Output 1.1.9). This output cover such matters as the coordination of National Oceans Ministerial Board and National Oceans Advisory Group including preparation of papers and briefings, and production of the Annual Report.

A total of \$ 5.27m has been spent with respect to the development of the south-east Regional Marine Plan (Output 1.3.3). This includes the establishment and coordination of south-east Regional Marine Plan Steering Committee, organise the Oceans Forum, and integrated assessment and data collection of the South-East Region. The major expenditure items in the planning process to date have been the mapping of south-east seabed, marine biological & resource surveys and acoustic mapping, costing \$ 2.45m.

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Senator Bolkus asked:

Just going back a few minutes: Ms Sakell, you were telling us that you did not anticipate spending all of the \$46.5 million that has been allocated for you this financial year. ... I think we are treading in a bit of quicksand here. What we might do is give you some questions on notice.

Answer:

A breakdown of funding and expenditure under the Oceans Policy is as follows.

Oceans Policy	1999/ 2000		2000/ 2001		2001/02	Total Budget
	Budget	Actual Expend.	Budget (include Rollover)	Actual Expend.	Budget	
	\$ (m)	\$ (m)	\$ (m)	\$ (m)	\$ (m)	\$ (m)
Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)						
Marine & Water	3.052	0.438	8.941	1.166	5.385	14.764
National Oceans Office	1.065	1.050	1.098	0.015	3.088	5.236
Total NHT	4.117	1.488	10.039	1.181	8.473	20.000
CRF (non-NHT) Funding						
Marine & Water	0.828	0.828	1.012	1.012	1.012	2.852
National Oceans Office	9.234	3.375	14.945	1.422	9.066	27.386
Total CRF	10.062	4.203	15.957	2.434	10.078	30.238
Oceans Policy Total	14.179	5.691	25.996	3.615	18.551	50.238

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Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA 16

Senator Bolkus asked:

Okay. In that case, you spent \$5 million. Our understanding is that you have spent \$20 million overall as a department. Can you tell us where the other money has been spent? ... Could you itemise that for us and come back to us?

Answer:

Total expenditure of Oceans Policy funding is \$ 9.3 m, of which the National Oceans Office has spent \$ 5.9 m and the Marine and Water division \$ 3.4 m.

The Marine and Water division is made up of \$ 1.60 m Natural Heritage Trust and \$ 1.84 m CRF (non-NHT) funding. Programs include Marine Protected Areas, Sustainable Fisheries, Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils, Ballast Water, Tributyl Tin Phase Out, Moorings and National Environment Protection Measure - Water Quality Guidelines.