

**Environment, Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts
Legislation Committee**

**Additional Information Received
VOLUME 2**

**ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE
PORTFOLIO**

21 February 2001

**Additional Information Relating to the
Examination of Proposed Additional Expenditure for 2000-2001**

May 2001

**ECITA Additional Estimates 2000-2001
(21 February 2001)
Questions on Notice
Environment and Heritage Portfolio**

Agencies

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

<i>Senator</i>	<i>Ques no</i>	<i>Hansard ref.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page No</i>
Bolkus	39	5	Mr Trinder —It was in 1992 in a report by John Whitehouse. Can we get a copy of that?	1
Bolkus	40	5	Senator BOLKUS —We had in respect of the current proposal's EIS a number of submissions suggesting that the bund be separated. That actually was not discussed in the supplementary or final EIS. Why was that? Mr Trinder —I do not know that it was the case that there were a number of submissions that suggested that the finger bund should be separated. I think the discussion at that time was about the main break wall structure rather than the finger bund—that is, the 250 metre break wall at the development. But I will certainly take that on notice and get back to the committee if that is not the case.	8
Bolkus	41	6	Graham Kelleher decision Can we get a copy of that decision?	8
Bolkus	42	6	Mr Trinder —We have legal advice that where a revocation is incidental the de minimus principle would apply. We do not have any legal advice that I am aware of that applies specifically to this particular structure in the marine park. Senator BOLKUS —Can we get a copy of that more general advice? Mr Trinder —It is several items of advice. I will certainly take that on notice. Mr Trinder - ...However, the judgment of lawyers advising the authority is that this would only need to occur in instances where there was a significant revocation, and therefore the de minimus principle applies to these very small revocations.... Senator BOLKUS —I would not mind seeing that advice, actually. Mr Trinder —I will take that on notice.	10
	43		Question deleted	
Bolkus	44	7	In anticipating that possibility, does it in any way limit the amount that may be stockpiled? Mr Trinder —I will take that on notice. I am not aware that it does, but if that is not in fact the case I will get back to the committee.	10
Bolkus	45	7-8	And that distance is about some 50 metres from the reef edge of Geoffrey Bay, is it? Mr Trinder —I believe that it is at least 50 metres from the reef edge, but again I will take that on notice and give you an exact distance.	11

Bolkus	46	8	Sinclair Knight Mertz apparently advised that the extra length of piping would cost only \$120,000; is that right? Mr Trinder —I do not know whether that is correct or not, but obviously an extra length of pipe there would be a cost. I can certainly get back to you.	11
Bolkus	47	8	Could you take this on notice, but I would like to get some idea as to what the trigger levels are and how they are different from the compliance levels. Mr Trinder —I will send the committee the reactive monitoring plan for discharge levels that goes into considerable detail about both the levels and the mechanisms that apply for monitoring discharge. I have been involved in a number of these developments over the years and I would say that this reactive monitoring plan is one of the most rigorous that I have ever seen.	12
Bolkus	48	12	Could I just ask you to provide on notice details of the budget since the financial year 1995-96 for that compliance enforcement area? Ms Chadwick —For compliance and? Senator BOLKUS — Monitoring. Ms Chadwick —For water quality? Senator BOLKUS —Yes. Ms Chadwick —I am happy to do so. Senator BOLKUS —And staff levels.	76

Bolkus	49	Tabled	<p>Giant Triton shell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the giant triton a natural predator of the crown-of-thorns starfish? • Is the giant triton protected in Queensland? • Is the giant triton protected internationally? • Are giant tritons for sale in Australian shell shops? • How much do they usually sell for? • Would these giant tritons have been collected live from coral reefs? • Would these giant tritons have come from outside Australia? • How do we know that these giant tritons didn't come from the Great Barrier Reef? • What do we know of the present abundance of the giant triton on the GBR? • What do we know of the past abundance of the giant triton on the GBR? • Do we know how many of these giant tritons were collected in the past? • Has the collection of giant triton shells reduced their population numbers? • When was this predator of the crown-of-thorns starfish discovered? • Do we know for sure what is the feeding rate of the giant triton? • Do we know for sure what is the prey preference of the giant triton? • What research has been undertaken on the ecology of the giant triton? • What abundance of giant triton would it take to keep starfish rare? • What research has been undertaken on breeding the giant triton? • What is the future of the Giant Triton Research Program? 	77
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Australian Greenhouse Office

<i>Senator</i>	<i>Ques no</i>	<i>Hansard ref.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page No</i>
Bolkus	50	64	What promotional material and goods have been produced for the AGO in each of the last three years? We are talking about promotional and information. This would include all booklets, leaflets, promotional goods, CDs, CD-ROMs, little oddities along the way and advertising.	83
Bolkus	51	64	What did you spend on a promotional stand at COP6? Could you give us the cost of the stand and getting all the stuff there and, within that, the cost of the glossy booklet that was produced as well.	85
Bolkus	52	64	Can you get us total figures of emissions and economic growth over the last five years? Mr Carruthers —That is all published, Senator. We can supply you with that documentation.	86

Bolkus	53	65	Yes, I know you said that, but was there any figure that was factored into cabinet or government considerations of this issue? Senator Hill —On my recollection it reviewed that historic information and advised on the basis of that and on the increasing temperature scenario that we should factor in less water—less water associated with climate change. I do not think there was an estimate of that, but I will check on that for you.	86
Bolkus	54	67	Minister, you said you did have some sort of figures in mind when you introduced the standards. Do you know what those figures are? Can you recollect? Senator Hill —I am sure that I can recollect some estimates, but we would need to go back into the records.	87
	55		Question deleted	
Bolkus	56	70	..when did you first receive the submissions from the states and when were they signed? Senator Hill —The submissions or the agreements? Senator BOLKUS —When were the submissions from the individual states received? I gather it is a submission based program. And when, further down the track, were agreements signed with the states? I wonder if you could take on notice the anticipated allocation of funds by year and by state and the emissions abatement forecast along the same sort of scenario—state and year—or cumulative.	88
	57		Question deleted	
Bolkus	58	71	There was a tender advertised, was there? Ms Andrews —Yes. I would have to get the details. I believe one was an open tender and one was a select tender, but I would have to check that. Senator BOLKUS —Can you give us details of the tenders: if it was a select tender, how they were chosen and who they were and the terms of reference? Ms Andrews —There will be program guidelines when they are approved at ministerial level, and that would probably give you the best information on the program.	90
Bolkus	59	71	What are the contracts worth? Ms Andrews —I would have to take that on notice, Senator.	90
Bolkus	60	71-72	Dr Harrison —.. We have sought advice on Commonwealth powers with regard to implementing a trading scheme. Senator BOLKUS —Can we get a copy of that advice. Senator Hill —We do not normally put out legal advice. Senator BOLKUS —I understand that with legal advice you may not, but if it is possible to make that available to us that would be great. Can the minister try and make the advice available to us and, in the meantime, can you come back to us with dates as to when advice was sought?	92

Bolkus	61	Tabled	<p>Energy efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have any reports been commissioned by any Commonwealth agency on Australia's relative energy efficiency? • Has ABARE conducted any studies into energy efficiency? • Is there a study currently underway with IEA? • Has AGO been involved in any way with this study? • Does it show Australia as relatively efficient or inefficient when compared to other OECD countries? • Did DPIE ever conduct a study by Lee Schipper to estimate Australia's energy efficiency? • What were his conclusions? • Can a copy be made available? 	97
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National Oceans Office

<i>Senator</i>	<i>Ques no</i>	<i>Hansard ref.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page No</i>
Bolkus	62	13	<p>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.</p> <p>Senator Hill—We will go back and check the figures and provide a considered answer.</p>	99
Bolkus	63	15	<p>Proportion of \$30 million budget spent So you have spent just over \$5 million?</p> <p>Ms Sakell—That is right.</p> <p>Senator BOLKUS—Can you on notice provide for us a breakdown of that expenditure?</p>	100
Bolkus	64	15	<p>Senator Hill—That is all right. I will give you a breakdown, because the figures you are quoting are different to the figures on page 101 of the document. We do not have the document we published with the last budget. I will give the committee a breakdown of the funding and expenditure to date under the oceans policy, which will indicate that part which has been dedicated to the National Oceans Office and its tasks, what funding remains and what our intention is in relation to that funding.</p>	101
Bolkus	65	16	<p>Our understanding is that you have spent \$20 million 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?</p>	102

