

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts

Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Environment and Heritage

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2000-2001, (23/11/00)

Outcome 1,

Questions: 120

Division: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: Crown of Thorns Starfish

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECTA 14

Question 1

Senator Mark Bishop – When will that review process be concluded?

Answer: 1

The review is in two parts. Part A is reviewing the results of two programs monitoring the current COTS outbreak and whether the current outbreak differs significantly from previous outbreaks. This will be completed in approximately 2 months. Part B will follow directly from A and reviews all new information relevant to potential causes of outbreaks since the last such review in late 1996. This will be completed approximately 4-6 months after Part A.

Question: 2

Senator Mark Bishop – While you are making those inquiries, could you take the following questions on notice (a) anticipated completion date for the review process, (b) the cost of that review process, (c) a list of the items of research that the CRC is reviewing and (d) the geographic reach of each item of research – whether it is in a specific area or right up and down the reef.

Answer: 2

- (a) See answer to question 1 above
- (b) approximately \$20,000 (Part A of review – see answer to question 1 above)
approximately \$40,000 (Part B of review – see answer to question 1 above)

Answers to 2(c) and 2(d)

The two most plausible links between human activities and outbreaks of COTS are changes in water quality as a result of changing land use (affecting the larval stages) and the removal of potential predators such as fish and tritons (affecting juveniles and sub-adults on the reef). There has been a considerable increase in understanding of the water quality issues since the last review and the CRC review will cover both water quality and predator removal but focus primarily on water quality issues and recently published information on the feeding of larval COTS. Most of this work has been carried out by the CRC Reef, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Other sources will also be used, including some recent preliminary work that has been carried out by Queensland's Department of

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Natural Resources. The geographic reach will include the entire Great Barrier Reef but principally the area between Princess Charlotte Bay in the north and the Swain Reefs in the south. This covers the historical extent of major outbreaks.

Outcome 1,

Question: 121

Division: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: Trawling

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: page 14

Senator Bishop asked: "The number of actual hours trawlers worked in 1996?"

Answer:

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is awaiting advice from the Queensland Fisheries Service on this question. GBRMPA will provide the answer as soon as the advice is received.

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Supplementary Budget Estimates 2000-2001, (23/11/00)

Outcome 1,

Question: 122

Division: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: Trawling

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: page 16

Senator Bishop asked: "Do you know how many trawlers which currently operate in the East Coast Trawl Fishery exceed 62 hull size?"

Answer:

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is awaiting advice from the Queensland Fisheries Service on this question. GBRMPA will provide the answer as soon as the advice is received.

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Outcome 1.2,

Question: 123

Division: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: Nelly Bay Harbour

Hansard Page: 20

Senator Bishop asked: Can you take on notice the occasions since the Nelly Bay Project inception when mangroves were irrigated?

Answer:

The Environmental Site Supervisor has reported to GBRMPA that mangroves have been irrigated on:

21/22 September;
28/30 October;
3/4 November; and
26 November.

The earthworks on site only effectively isolated these mangroves from tidal inflow from 6 October 2000.

Outcome 1.2,

Question: 123a

Division: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: Nelly Bay Harbour

Hansard Page: 21

Senator Bishop asked: Can you confirm in writing the arrangements for paying the environmental site supervisor at the Nelly Bay Harbour project?

Answer:

The Environmental Site Supervisor is contracted to GBRMPA for the duration of the project. He submits invoices to GBRMPA for payment on a monthly basis. GBRMPA recovers this expense, in full, from the Queensland Department of State Development.