

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 19

**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates

**Outcome:** Outcome 4

**Programme:** Office of Water Science

**Topic:** Longwall Mining Key Threatening Process

**Hansard Page:** N/A

**Question Date:** 27 November 2013

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Rhiannon asked:**

In 2005 the NSW Scientific Committee listed longwall mining as a Key Threatening Process (Alteration of habitat following subsidence due to longwall mining) causing cracking beneath water bodies that result in the loss of water flows.

Despite this, privately contracted EIS' by the mines continue to rule out longwall mining as the cause of drained swamps and waterways – including the very EEC swamps on the NSW Newnes Plateau that the KTP is based on.

- a) Is the NSW KTP on longwall mining considered anywhere in the processes established by the National Partnership Agreement, especially given that this KTP recognises coal longwall mining as draining waterways and altering habitat?
- b) Does this issue fall under the purview of the Agreement and the independent expert scientific committee?
- c) If not, why not?

**Answer:**

- a) The National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (the Agreement) commits the Australian Government and signatory states to seek advice from the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development on the water-related impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining developments. This would include potential impacts on water-related assets.
- b) As above
- c) Not applicable