

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

Question No: 42

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 5

Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division

Topic: Delegation Approval Powers for Project in World Heritage Areas to State Governments

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Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Can you take on notice whether you have already advised the minister as to any breach of World Heritage treaty obligations from the progression of an approvals bilat and double-check as you said you did not know whether it had been?

Mr Knudson: Yes

Answer:

The Department has advised the Minister of obligations in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) of which the Minister must be satisfied to enter bilateral agreements. These include requirements that the Minister be satisfied that the proposed management arrangement or authorisation process, to be accredited, is not inconsistent with Australia's international obligations. Australia's international obligations include those under the World Heritage Convention.