

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

**Question No:** 49

**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates

**Outcome:** Outcome 5

**Programme:** Environment Assessment and Compliance Division

**Topic:** Toro Uranium

**Hansard Page:** 25

**Question Date:** 18 November 2013

**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Senator LUDLAM: I presume one of the 48 is the Toro uranium proposal, which was on the minister's desk when the government changed hands. The former minister had made a number of quite extensive and complex requests of Toro. Would you provide us with an update as to whether officers of agencies have met with the company or exactly where that proposal is up to.

Mr Knudson: With respect to Toro's proposal, because it is not a large coal or coal seam gas project it was not subject to the water trigger, so it was not in that package of decisions.

Senator LUDLAM: But it is still on the minister's desk?

Mr Knudson: At this point that project has been approved.

Senator LUDLAM: No, it has not—or it was approved, but the minister would not sign off until quite a large number of conditions had been met, and they had not yet been met.

Mr Knudson: The EPBC principal approval has been provided. However, as you are pointing out, if I understand your question correctly, there are a number of management plans that are required at different stages as that project proceeds, and those are indeed with the department as part of the post-approval process. If you are looking for a specific update on where those are at, then we can walk through that.

Senator LUDLAM: We are very short of time. Would you provide on notice which management plans and how many of those conditions have been met thus far? There were to be no ground-disturbing activities, for example.

**Answer:**

The Toro Energy Limited Wiluna proposal (EPBC 2009/5174) that involves developing the 'Centipede' and 'Lake Way' uranium deposits was approved on 2 March 2013 by the then Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP, subject to 36 conditions.

Condition 3 requires the proponent to develop and submit to the Minister for approval an Environment Management Plan. The plan must be submitted to the Minister for approval at least 3 months prior to commencement of action, including preparatory work such as clearing of vegetation or breaking ground for mining or infrastructure.

Prior to any groundwater extraction outside of the mining lease Condition 13 requires the proponent to develop a plan for the extraction of the groundwater.

Condition 20 requires the proponent to develop and submit to the Minister for approval a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. The plan must be submitted to the Minister for approval at least 3 months prior to commencement of action.

No management plans required by the approval have been submitted to the Department by the proponent as of 11 December 2013.