

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

Question No: 51

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 5

Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division

Topic: Burrup Air Quality Emissions

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Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: I have a follow-up on that, Mr Knudson. The response to the question on notice that Senator Ludlam received this morning indicates that no conditions were placed on Woodside to mitigate the potential effects on the heritage values of these emissions. Are you are saying that there is air quality monitoring but then no conditions that would protect the site if anything was detected in that monitoring? Is that right? That seems a little strange to me.

Mr Knudson: The piece that I am familiar with is the air quality monitoring requirements. I would have to take the second part of the question on notice and come back and clarify.

Answer:

The Dampier Archipelago (including Burrup Peninsula) was listed as a National Heritage Place on 3 July 2007. Project decisions that have been determined under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) before the listing of this National Heritage Place will not have been assessed based on their likelihood to result in a significant impact on the relevant heritage values.

No air quality monitoring was required for the protection of the national heritage place values for Woodside's Pluto LNG facility (EPBC 2006/2968), as the Dampier Archipelago (including Burrup Peninsula) was not listed as a national heritage place at the time the referral decision for this project was made.

For projects that have been considered under the EPBC Act following the listing of the Dampier Archipelago (including Burrup Peninsula) National Heritage Place, conditions of approval do include air quality monitoring requirements. The construction of an ammonium nitrate production facility within the King Bay/Hearson Cove Industrial Precinct, Burrup Peninsula, WA was approved with conditions on 14 September 2011 (EPBC 2008/4546).

Condition 9 of this approval requires an air quality monitoring program beginning from the commencement of construction. In addition to the air quality monitoring for EPBC 2008/4546, there are requirements for the approval holder to contribute to the direct monitoring of rock art sites on Burrup Peninsula, and this includes the requirement to respond to and manage changes detected in patination of the rock art sites where the monitoring program has detected change.