

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

Question No: 145
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Big Four Australian Banks - Galilee Basin coal mine or Abbot Point
Hansard Page: 11
Question Date: 11 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Can I ask now: has the minister or any of the departmental officers met with or spoken to any staff from the Big Four Australian banks about either the Galilee Basin coalmine proposals or Abbot Point? **Dr de Brouwer:** We will take that question on notice. Frankly, we talk with everyone in the department. We talk with all sorts of different businesses, as we would talk with all sorts of environment NGOs, community groups and others. As to whether we have had a specific conversation around Abbot Point or other topics, I cannot answer that off the cuff. **Senator WATERS:** I think you would remember a meeting with one of the Big Four. **Dr de Brouwer:** We certainly meet with the banks but, as to whether that is the main topic of conversation, let me come back to you on that. **Senator WATERS:** What are you talking about if not those ones? **Dr de Brouwer:** We are talking about a range of lots of things. **Senator Birmingham:** The government's deregulatory agenda, perhaps. **Senator WATERS:** Okay. Well, can you take on notice precisely what it is that you are speaking about with the banks, including whether that is the Galilee Basin and the Abbot Point coal port dimension.

Answer:

Departmental officers in the course of their normal business talk to businesses, including banks, about a wide range of matters relating to the Department's responsibilities.

The Department has no record of the Galilee Basin coalmine proposals or Abbot Point having been discussed at meetings with any of the four largest Australian banks.