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

Question No: 306

Hearing: Additional Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 1

Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)

Topic: Giant Freshwater Lobster (Astacopsis Gouldi) - Tasmanian streams siltation

Hansard Page: N.A

Question Date: 11 March 2016

Question Type: Written

Senator Rice, Janet asked:

Recent research into the siltation in Tasmanian streams showed that:

- in-channel fine sediments increased and the proportion of aquatic insect taxa decreased with increasing percentage land area that had been clearfelled
- that substantive changes in in-channel fine sediments were observed above 40% of catchment area and
- that that lower levels of clearfelling were associated with higher populations of A. gouldi.

How will the Department take into account these findings?

Answer:

The *Giant Freshwater Lobster Recovery Plan 2006-2010* was reviewed by a panel of experts, including species managers, key scientists and other stakeholders, at a workshop convened in Hobart in April 2015. Workshop participants also contributed to a draft revised recovery plan for the species. The new draft recovery plan explicity identifies the impacts of in-stream sedimentation as a threat to the species and has included a range of actions to address the issue. The recovery plan will soon be released for a statutory three month public consultation period.