

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

**Question No:** 43  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Shenhua - Water Management Plan  
**Hansard Page:** 127  
**Question Date:** 08 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Rhiannon asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** Okay. Has the water management plan been sent to the IESC?

**Mr Tregurtha:** The minister has indicated that he has committed to seeking the IESC's advice on the plan when it has been submitted. But the normal course of events would be that the proponent would submit the plan to the minister and then it would be provided to the IESC for consideration.

**Senator RHIANNON:** So, again, it is waiting on the company; is that what you are saying?

**Mr Tregurtha:** Correct.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Will it be made public? At what stage is it made public in terms of going through this process?

**Mr Tregurtha:** When the plan is approved, the standard course of events with management plans is that there is a requirement for the company to make them public once they have been approved.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Does the company have to make it public immediately? What is the time line that they are under?

**Mr Tregurtha:** I would have to take that question on notice as to whether the conditions provided for a specific time line. The conditions may in some cases provide for a specific time line. Generally, there would just be an expectation that, as soon as the minister had approved the plan, within a reasonable period of time the company would provide that on their website for anyone to be able to access it.

**Answer:**

Condition 18 of the approval decision for the Watermark Coal Project, NSW (EPBC 2011/6201) states:

*Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish all management plans and strategies, referred to in these conditions of approval on its website within 28 calendar days of being approved. Approved plans and strategies must remain on the website until the approval holder receives written agreement from the Minister that the publication of the plans may cease.*