

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

Question No: 51
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Carmichael mine approval
Hansard Page: 133
Question Date: 08 February 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator McKim asked:

Senator McKIM: I wanted to ask some questions about the Carmichael mine approval. You have previously provided the letter of 6 November last year that the department wrote to Adani asking them again for the environmental history of their executive officers and raising questions about their compliance with the EPBC Act and the Criminal Code Act. Could you provide a copy of their response for the committee, please?

Mr Tregurtha: We do not have that response with us today, but we can take that on notice.

Senator McKIM: Will you provide that to the committee on notice?

Dr de Brouwer: We will take that on notice. ...

Answer:

The Department has received a request to release the same correspondence under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. The Department consulted Adani about the release of these documents and Adani has claimed that the correspondence contains commercial-in-confidence information. The Department cannot provide the documents until Adani's concern has been adequately considered and a decision has been made about whether the relevant material is exempt from production under sections 47 and/or 47G of the FOI Act.