

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

Question No: 53
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Adani mine communications
Hansard Page: 134-135
Question Date: 08 February 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator McKim asked:

Senator McKIM: ...Will you take on notice, please, to provide the committee exactly with all communication between the department and the minister's office, including the timing of that communication on any matters involving the decision not to pursue Mr Janakaraj for his omission to fully inform the department about his environmental history.

Mr Knudson: We will take that on notice.

Senator McKIM: By the way, can I be clear about that question: that is the minister or anyone in the minister's office. Was there any written correspondence about this issue between the minister and the department between 6 November and 21 January 2016?

Mr Tregurtha: Again, we would have to take that on notice to ensure that we provide a fulsome answer.

Answer:

The Assistant Secretary of the Compliance and Enforcement Branch gave a verbal update on the Department's progress with the matter at a meeting with the Minister's advisors on 20 November 2015.

The Department sent an email to Minister Hunt's office attaching a Ministerial brief outlining the Department's findings in relation to the matter, including its decision not to take further compliance action, on 18 December 2015.

The Minister's Office requested talking points on the matter on 23 December 2015 and the Department provided these on 24 December 2015.