

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

Question No: 73
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Mine site rehabilitation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 24 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

What work has the department done in relation to the development of policy or guidance relating to the rehabilitation of mine sites as part of the EPBC Act approval process?

Answer:

The Department does not have a policy specific to mine site rehabilitation.

The regulation of the resource sector under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is confined to those actions which have the potential to significantly impact on matters of national environmental significance.

The broader regulation of the resources sector, including mine site rehabilitation is the responsibility of state and territory governments.

In some circumstances, the approvals granted under the Act may require rehabilitation plans or environmental bonds in addition to those required by state and territory governments. These additional rehabilitation requirements are limited to activities directly related to matters of national environmental significance.