

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

**Question No:** 21  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Exporting Platypus  
**Hansard Page:** 115  
**Question Date:** 27 February 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Rhiannon asked:**

Senator RHIANNON: So it is the minister who gives the final decision?

Mr Andrews: Correct. The people at San Diego Zoo love the Tasmanian devils so much that they actually gave one of them, Bradley, a pacemaker, so I can assure you that it is one of the best zoos in the world and no zoo would take platypuses from the wild. These are platypuses that are bred in captivity and—

Senator RHIANNON: Is it true, also, that they do not go back—

CHAIR: Sorry, Senator Rhiannon. Can I just remind you, Mr Andrews, that we are coming up against the tea break, so could you just keep it a little bit shorter so Senator Rhiannon can get her questions in.

Mr Knudson: If I can just add to that, what we can do is provide on notice what the regulatory requirements are for the approval and what the process is for that.

Senator RHIANNON: That would be good. Thank you, Mr Andrews.

**Answer:**

Any export of platypus specimens would require an export permit to be issued under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Before an export permit can be issued, assessments would need to be undertaken determining that:

- the animals will be transported in a way to minimise stress
- the organisation receiving the animals is suitably equipped to receive them.

In addition, the exporter, importer and the Department would need to enter into an Ambassador Agreement that establishes the ongoing treatment of the animals once they are at San Diego Zoo.

Platypus have not been exported from Australia under current regulatory regimes, so Conditions for Overseas Transfer of Platypus are not in place. Development of the Conditions for Overseas Transfer will be carried out in consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts.