

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 47
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Science
Topic: Ranger uranium mine: engagement with World Heritage Committee
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Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: At what point is the intention to involve the World Heritage Committee, IUCN and other expert advisory bodies in the closure process? I take it they were not listed in your run-down of stakeholders before. At what point do they get invited to the table?

Mr Thompson: We provide advice to the World Heritage Centre, which is advising the World Heritage Committee on a regular basis around developments in relation to all of the World Heritage properties, including Kakadu National Park. They have so far not requested any further information, as far as I know, but Stephen Oxley, a colleague who appeared in program 1.4, would be able to provide some more information on that.

Senator LUDLAM: Do you mean I have missed him?

Mr Thompson: Yes. But I am happy to take it on notice if you would like.

Senator LUDLAM: I would appreciate it—just anything that sets out their formal or informal engagement with the process all the way through.

Mr Thompson: Sure.

Answer:

To date, the Department has not received any formal enquiries from the World Heritage Committee, or other international expert advisory bodies, in relation to the Ranger mine rehabilitation and closure process. However, the Department has from time to time discussed Ranger uranium mine with the IUCN.

The Supervising Scientist Branch provides information on the rehabilitation of Ranger mine to the Director of National Parks and the Department's Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division as required. This information can be further disseminated in reports to the World Heritage Centre and other interested parties, as required as the mine moves towards closure and rehabilitation.