

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

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 54  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Macquarie Harbour – Publishing of reports  
**Hansard Page:** 90  
**Question Date:** 27 February 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Whish-Wilson asked:**

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Are you undertaking your own assessment of Macquarie Harbour?

Ms Collins: We have been undertaking compliance monitoring of the particular matters in which the referral decision was made.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Will you be publishing that detail?

Ms Collins: We are still reviewing the findings. We were out at Macquarie Harbour only a couple of weeks ago, so we are still reviewing the findings of that. It is not normal that we would publish compliance-monitoring reports, though.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Given it is a significant matter of public interest, would it be something you would consider?

Ms Collins: I would take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department has received an allegation that there is non-compliance with a particular manner attached to a 'not a controlled action particular manner' decision made under the EPBC Act for an expansion to marine farming in Macquarie Harbour. The Department's inquiries into these allegations are ongoing.

The Department does not publicly release details of its compliance activities as to do so can jeopardise compliance and enforcement processes.

Additionally, the Department will not release any information which could jeopardise matters before the court concerning marine farming operations in Macquarie Harbour.

At the completion of the inquiries we will advise the marine farming operators and relevant state government authorities of the Department's findings.